

Lifestyle

Ring in the "Noon Year" with the whole family A3



Sports

Wilmington boys basketball hammers Watertown, 55-30 B5W



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16 PAGES

School Committee hears fall athletics review

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Athletic Director Dennis Ingram presented the fall review of WHS athletics at the Dec. 17 School Committee meeting. Alongside him were representatives from the teams he wished to highlight that evening: girls' soccer, fall cheer and the athletic photo club.

Photographs taken by the latter group, Wildcat Media, were shown to committee members and others present. They also shared designs they had made with these photos in an editing software, including an action shot of a soccer player.

Several members congratulated the group on their work and Michael Mercaldi noted how hard it is to take quality pictures of such fast-paced events.

Stephen Turner asked the students which sport they felt was hardest to photograph. One said it was baseball, another

golf. The third stated that it was track because "if you blink, you miss a runner."

David Ragsdale wanted to know if they had a favorite shutter speed, to which there was agreement about 1/1000 being preferable.

The club's focus is broader than just the photos themselves, though. Once a month, during their flex period, they work on their Instagram page @wildcat.media.whs. Topics they discuss include data analytics and optimal posting schedules.

Next, Ingram called up the representatives from the fall cheer team, who just this year were the Middlesex League champions. Given the team's great success, Mercaldi wondered what separates Wilmington from other cities when it comes to cheerleading.

One of the students replied, "We are very connected," and added

SCHOOL | PAGE A2

Shawsheen Tech School Committee considers internal audit scope

By PAIGE IMPINK
News Correspondent

BILLERICA — The Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Committee met Dec. 16 to review several items of interest, including budget planning, enrollment trends, capital projects, and operational planning for the coming year.

Superintendent Tony McIntosh reported that the district remains on schedule with FY26 budget planning, with additional joint budget and capital meetings planned for January. Final state aid figures are expected late in the month, allowing the committee to vote on assessments in February before budgets move to town finance committees and spring town meetings.

The committee also received an enrollment update, noting that approximately 425 applications have been submitted for the Class of 2030, representing nearly 28 percent of eligible eighth graders. While slightly behind last year's pace, McIntosh cited a later admissions opening and ongoing outreach efforts, including plans for expanded seventh-grade engagement this spring.

Updates on the Coop-

erative Education program showed continued strong participation, with students logging tens of thousands of work hours and earning nearly \$50,000 so far this school year. Participation is expected to increase as more students become eligible.

Discussion then turned to capital projects and facilities planning, including steady progress on the

TECH | PAGE A7W



A fresh cut and a big heart

Third grade student donates hair to help others

By PAIGE IMPINK
News Correspondent

TEWKSBURY — For more than two years, Izzyah Trudeau's long hair had been part of who he was. Flowing past his shoulders, it wasn't just a hairstyle, it was a source of comfort and security. And Izzyah loved it.

So did many of the people around him, especially ladies who often commented on his beautiful hair. His parents, Susannah and Stephen Trudeau, always believed in letting their children have their own thoughts, ideas and ways of expressing themselves, and Izzyah's hair was a perfect example of that.

As the youngest of six children, Izzyah — who was adopted into the Trudeau family — sometimes received a ribbing from one of his older brothers, ironically who had once had long hair himself. Still, Izzyah stay-

ed true to himself.

As the holidays approached, a simple idea came up: maybe he'd get a few inches trimmed. But just before the salon appointment, Izzyah surprised everyone. He told his mom he wanted to take all of it off.

"Wow," Susannah Trudeau remembers saying, trying to stay supportive but calm. "That sounds great."

Izzyah even suggested a buzz cut, for which Susannah was surprised, but knew he could always change his mind at the last minute. But Izzyah was very sure.

Adding to the surprise, his Nana was getting her hair done the same day at the same salon. Not knowing the plan, she was happy for the impromptu visit and watched what she might have thought was a trim. Then the moment arrived. As LaBella Salon stylist Jody Palmer carefully sectioned the hair into 12 long pony-

tails, each about 10 inches, grandma watched.

One by one, they were cut off. Instead of fear or regret, Izzyah was full of excitement.

"For a child who experiences anxiety, it was incredible to watch his confidence grow with every snip," said Susannah.

The family had talked about donating his hair to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces to children in need. In the end, Izzyah kept the two shortest sections and donated ten full 10-inch strands — thanks in part to encouragement and guidance from Palmer, who helped make the donation possible.

After the cut, something shifted, said Susannah. Izzyah stood taller. He smiled bigger. And with his ears now visible, he decided he wanted to get them pierced, too.

"People can see them now," he said proudly. He loves the piercings

— and so does his mom, who says it's been amazing to see him fully embrace his individuality.

A student at Center Elementary School, Izzyah plays basketball and soccer in town, and his family has noticed that he no longer seems to be hiding behind his hair. The confidence gained from this moment appears to be carrying over into everything he does, from sports to everyday life.

Best of all, Izzyah understands that his choice is helping others. His siblings are incredibly proud — and everyone agrees he looks fantastic.

What started as a haircut became something much bigger: a lesson in generosity, confidence, and being unapologetically yourself. And for Izzyah Trudeau, it's clear that sometimes, letting go can help you grow.

Department talks education budget for FY27

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The FY27 preliminary budget and WPS capital planning presentation was delivered to the School Committee on Dec. 17. In place of the superintendent, who usually presents, was the Director of Administration and Finance for Wilmington, Keree Simmons.

Simmons began with the capital planning request, which would amount to \$3.09 million over the next five years. The plan divides this money between improvements for technology, special education transportation, and other capital projects like modernizing learning environments.

Approximately \$1.9 million would be allocated for the technology upgrades. Both students and staff, Simmons noted, will

be needing new tablets and computers soon. Therefore, roughly \$1.3 million of the technology fund would go towards these replacements.

\$400,000 would be for safety improvements like security camera and PA system upgrades, and the other \$150,000 would go towards creating an electronic document management system.

For the special education transportation improvements, \$550,000 would be set aside. This money would allow the town to replace three aging vehicles with two minivans and a 14 passenger transit van. A wheelchair accessible minivan would also be in the budget, with \$205,000 left to add and maintain both wheelchair accessible and standard vehicles from FY27 to FY31.

The remaining \$630,000 would be used to acquire

new classroom furniture, whiteboards, and other learning environment needs.

Simmons then transitioned to the FY27 superintendent's preliminary budget.

In FY26, WPS had a budget of \$51.4 million. For FY27, the district will need \$54.7 million, an increase of 6.31%. However, Simmons highlighted that 5.71% of this increase was due to contractual obligations, meaning that these increased costs were unavoidable.

Following several years of enrollment dropping, the numbers have recently leveled out at around 2,800 students, an increase of 28 from last year.

Of these 2,800, 186 are ESL students and 144 are special education students. As such, increased funding has been requested to meet the needs of these pupils.

The superintendent's proposal recommended creating an additional Strides classroom at the Woburn Street School. A Strides classroom, Simmons explained, is a small-group class for autistic students. Because these classes are small by design, there is a need for a higher number of them, he continued.

The proposal also called for the addition of a few staff members, including a language pathologist and an early childhood center behavior interventionist. However, staff reductions were also recommended, including one elementary teacher position.

Simmons then covered the next steps in the budget process, which would include a meeting with the town manager in late December and a Town Meeting on May 2 of next year.

Stephen Turner then commented that this was effectively a "level budget," as the increases all seem to be required for WPS to continue to operate smoothly.

Michael Mercaldi wanted to know if it could be cheaper to outsource some of the special education positions, but Simmons explained that having long-term, full-time employees is more beneficial. He also reminded Mercaldi of the additional costs that come with outsourcing the hiring process to a firm.

David Ragsdale asked for a clarification on the size of the new Strides classroom. Simmons told him that there would be 4-5 students in it, which is the typical size of a Strides class.

Simmons closed the presentation by telling the

BUDGET | PAGE A2W

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INDEX

Lifestyle... A3 | Middlesex East... B1 | Obituary... A5 | Opinion... A4 | Police Logs... B4 | Sports... A5W

Wilmington Library News:

Special vacation week storytime on Friday, Jan. 2

Library Closure: The library will be closing at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31 and will remain closed on Jan. 1 in observation of the New Year.

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesday, December 30, 2pm

Wednesday, December 31, 2pm

Saturday, January 3, 2pm

Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Creative Writing Skills Group

Sunday, December 28, 7pm

Learn and apply creative writing tips, tools and techniques. Open to all who want to improve their writing skills and get their work published. To register, email Adult Services Librarian Erin at adultservices@wilmlibrary.org with the name of the event.

Needleworkers at Night

Monday, December 29, 6pm

These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in.

Needleworkers

Friday, January 2, 10am

This is a social group for those who do any kind of needle craft. Bring your knitting, crocheting, quilting, etc. and enjoy conversation and camaraderie. Drop-in.

Youth Programs

Ready, Set, STEAM!

Monday, December 29, 6pm

Learn and have fun at the same time in this engaging STEAM program! For Grades K-5 and their families

Minecraft: Winter Wonderland

Tuesday, December 30, 3pm

Kids will be able to play hide-and-seek through the whimsical halls and secret hidey-holes of the Gingerbread Mansion. And either unleash their creativity by building and decorating their own gingerbread house with can-



▲ Drop in with your little ones for this special Vacation Week Storytime on Friday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.

(Courtesy photo)

Community LEGO Build

Friday, January 2, 2pm
Work together to build LEGO Minecraft The Badlands Mineshaft! Ages 8+

Additional Information

Library Resource:

Birds of the World

Become an armchair ornithologist with Birds of the World, a research platform that brings together

deep, scholarly content from several celebrated works of ornithology with millions of bird observations from eBird and multimedia from the Macaulay Library into a single platform where biologists and birders can explore comprehensive life history information on birds. Visit www.wilmlibrary.org/econtent/research for more info.

Jane Austen's 250th Birthday Bingo

Celebrate Jane Austen's 250th anniversary with us at WML! Now through December 31st, adults and teens are invited to play Jane Austen Bingo. Pick up a bingo sheet at the library, complete the activities, and return it to earn raffle ticket for our Austen-themed prize basket. Each completed bingo line counts as one raffle entry.

Save the Date!

Join us to speak French with other Francophiles! WML has a new monthly group for anyone who loves to speak and listen to French. Join group leader, Nathalie Hayduk, for this stress-free, low-key group to speak French on a more regular basis. The first meeting will be on Thursday, January 29th at 7pm. All future meetings will take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm!

Book Store Next Door

In January and February, the Bookstore Next Door will be open Saturdays only, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by to purchase some new-to-you books!

Museum Passes

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting www.wilmlibrary.org/services/mp.

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming

Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling (978) 658-2967.

dy and icing to see if theirs is the most delicious or embark on an exhilarating parkour competition to the peak of a majestic mountain! All presented by Arrayscape Gaming. Grades K-5

Slice & Dice Junior — Pizza and Games for Kids and Families

Tuesday, December 30, 6pm

Join Librarians Mary and Marie for a special round of Slice & Dice! Enjoy pizza and games for kids

and families! Join us for open play where you can explore our game library or bring your own favorites to share with the group. Kids and Families

Noon Year's Eve!

Wednesday, December 31, 11:15am

Celebrate New Year's Eve early and avoid staying up 'til midnight! We'll celebrate with crafts and activities, a countdown to noon followed by a balloon

drop, a sparkling grape juice and cider toast and wrap up the party with a bubble-wrap-stomp dance! Kids of all ages

Vacation Week Storytime

Friday, January 2, 10am

Drop in with your little ones for this special storytime featuring stories, rhymes, and lots of musical and movement fun. For all ages

School Committee hosts successful fall sports teams

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

that their ability to communicate and coordinate with one another was what set them apart.

Ragsdale asked if there was anything the team had done differently this year that may have contributed to their victory. The students told him that they did far more preparing for this season, including an increased exercise regimen and a cheer camp. One of the employees at the camp had even reportedly told them that Wilmington's team seems ready at a collegiate level.

Jennifer Bryson thanked the students, saying that cheerleading is one of the things that makes Wilmington stand out.

Lastly, Ingram invited up a few members of the girls' soccer team, who were also the Middlesex League champions this year with a regular sea-

son record of 11-3-4.

In the Division 3 State Tournament, the girls beat Scituate in the Round of 32 and East Bridgewater in the Round of 16, before falling to Pope Francis Preparatory School in the Round of 8.

When asked how they had performed so well this year, the students answered that it was because of how tightly bonded they were as a group. Many of them had played with each other for years, and it didn't hurt that they had so much fun together, one girl added.

Ingram closed out his report by mentioning the Wilmington Wildcat app, where anyone interested can find team schedules, links to online tickets, as well as weekly updates on Wilmington athletics.

Following this presentation, Julie Kim of the WHS Robotics team was

called up to discuss the \$5,000 anonymous donation the group received. Accompanying her was one of the members of the team with their team's robot.

To start, Kim wanted to give the School Committee a brief demonstration of how the robot worked. It was designed over two months for a competition wherein it would have to collect balls and launch them into a basket. Many of the parts were either ordered online or 3D printed by the group, Kim explained as she showed off some of the mechanism prototypes.

"There will be a quiz," she joked.

After seeing how the machine pulled the first ball in, Ragsdale quipped, "Could this thing shovel my driveway?"

Rebecca Lord asked the student if they had been interested in this for a long time. They said they

had, as Wilmington Middle School also has a good robotics program.

Bryson wondered what the time commitment was for this project outside of school, to which the student replied that, while it was a lot of hours of work, it was also a lot of fun.

Mercaldi asked if the team had thought about using AI to assist them in their work, but the student told him that it wasn't feasible, as AI makes too many mistakes and is not reliable for this sort of work.

Nicholas Golden then made a motion to approve of the donation and the committee unanimously voted yes.

Following a presentation on the FY27 budget, the committee adjourned for the year. Their next meeting will be on Jan. 14.

Committee agrees budget increase necessary

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

committee that the increased funding was "not to get us ahead, it is to get

us caught up."

Some members felt that a 6.31% increase would be a tough ask to the town, but ultimately agreed that

the funding was necessary and the request more than reasonable.

Jesse Fennelly thanked Simmons and the central

office workers who accompanied him before moving on to the end of the School Committee meeting.

It's Your Money
by Todd BrisboisUNDERSTANDING
RENTAL PROPERTY
DEPRECIATION:

PART III

Calculating Your Property's Depreciation

The process of calculating depreciation begins with determining your property's cost basis. This is the purchase price plus certain capitalized costs, including closing costs, fees, and any capital improvements made before or shortly after placing the property in service. From this total, you subtract the value assigned to the land (since land is not depreciable). The resulting figure is your depreciable basis, which is the starting amount you'll use for the depreciation period.

Tax Implications and Reporting Requirements

Depreciation must be reported on IRS Schedule E and filed with your tax return. This form details rental income and expenses, including depreciation deductions. Note that depreciation is mandatory for rental properties, even if you choose not to claim it. The IRS will still assume you've taken the deduction when calculating depreciation recapture taxes upon the property's sale.

Depreciation Recapture

When you sell a rental property, the IRS will reclaim part of the tax benefit you received from depreciation by taxing it at a rate of up to 25%. In essence, it "recaptures" those depreciation deductions by taxing that amount as ordinary income (up to certain limits).

Say you purchased a rental property for \$200,000 (\$160,000 for the building + \$40,000 for the land). During eight years of ownership, you claimed \$46,545 in depreciation deductions (\$160,000 ÷ 27.5 × 8 years). You then sell the property for \$250,000, representing a gain. The \$46,545 in depreciation you claimed is "recaptured" and taxed at up to 25%. Your maximum tax is \$11,636. The remaining gain of \$50,000 (\$96,545 net gain - \$46,545) is taxed at capital gains rates (typically 15% for most taxpayers).

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RING IN THE 'NOON' YEAR WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY

Lifestyle

By **HEATHER BURNS**
News Correspondent

While the celebration of Christmas is typically focused around children and family, historically, New Year's Eve is usually a more adult-focused celebration.

Although many adults also struggle to stay up to the midnight hour to welcome in the New Year, the late night hour of this celebration usually finds most children fast asleep long before the festivities begin.

For families looking to have an earlier start on New Year's celebrations so the entire family can participate, consider one of this year's local "daytime" New Year's Eve celebrations offering fun activities for all.

Wamesit Lanes, located at 434 Main St. in Tewksbury is hosting a New Year's Eve Family Party on Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.

This event happens all day long on New Year's Eve, so you can choose to come at the timeframe of your choice. Perfect for young and old who may struggle to stay awake until the stroke of midnight.

The family party includes two hours of bowling for up to six people, shoe rentals, soft drinks, party favors, a sparkling cider to toast the new year, and a complimentary 30-minute arcade card.

To check for lane availability and to register for this event visit www.wamesitlanes.com.

For those looking for a faster paced activity to ring in the New Year, **Roller Kingdom**, located at 355 Middlesex turnpike in Tyngsboro is hosting a New Year's Skate Party on Dec. 31 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Roll into the New Year by enjoying a mock midnight countdown at 3 p.m. Free hats and noisemakers will be provided to help ring in the New Year. There will also be plenty of games and prizes available at the celebration.

Admission to this event is \$16 per person and an additional \$3 for skate rental.

For those looking for a fun, but sensory gentle New Year celebration, **We Rock the Spectrum Kids Gym** is hosting a Noon Year's Eve Party on Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Located at 7 Liberty Way in Westford, We Rock the Spectrum offers a fun environment to learn, explore and build social skills with a sensory safe experience.

This daytime New Year's Eve event features a mock midnight countdown and balloon drop, face painting, crafts, and games.

Pizza, snacks and soft drinks will also be provided.

To make reservations call 978-733-0969 during regular business hours.

For little ones that are always channeling their inner princess, **Sugar Plum Parties**, located at 306 Boston Road in Billerica, is hosting a daytime New

Year's Eve Ball on Dec. 31 for little ones age 4 to 9 years old.

Ring in the new year as only a princess can by enjoying lots of singing, dancing, cake and ice cream.

Every princess in attendance will receive a makeover, which includes hair, nails and a tiara and wand.

A 4x6 photo will go home with each guest as a keepsake of this special day.

Advance registration for this event is required. To register visit www.sugarplumpartiesbillerica.com.

Those with inquiring minds will enjoy a trip to the **Discovery Museum**, located at 177 Main St. in Acton, to participate in **Bessie's Rockin Noon Year's Eve** on Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visitors to the museum on that day are encouraged to wear their most festive pajamas to help rock in the new year.

Party hats and noisemakers will be provided to help countdown to the new

year at noon time.

Participation for this event is free with a museum admission purchase of \$19 per person.

For those who find themselves on New Year's Eve still looking for those last few moments of holiday season fun for the little ones, there are still several local holiday lights displays that will be up through the New Year.

The **Merrimack Valley Celebration of Lights**, located at Mann Orchard Riverside Farm on 445 Main St. in Methuen, will be on full display until Jan. 3, 2026.

Drive through over one million twinkling lights spread over a mile-long driving path.

To keep you in the holiday mood, tune in your car radio to hear holiday music synchronized with the lights.

To buy tickets in advance, visit www.fiestashows.com.

The **Stone Zoo Lights**, located at 149 Pond St. in Stoneham, will be open daily from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

now through Jan. 4, 2026.

Stroll through the zoo to visit the resident animals surrounded by thousands of holiday lights.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.zoonewengland.org.

The **New Hampshire Motor Speedway Gift of Lights**, located at 1122 Route 106 North in Loudon, NH, will be open from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 29, 2025 through Jan. 4, 2026.

Drive through a 2.5 mile light display that features over 3.5 million lights that are sure to brighten your New Year.

To purchase tickets in advance, visit www.nhms.com or call 800-788-9627.

This New Year's Eve don't miss out on the many opportunities to ring in the New Year for both the young and old, while still hitting the sheets well before midnight.

Attend one of the many family-friendly New Year's Eve daytime celebrations to ensure both a Happy New Year and a good night's sleep for all!

Wilmington students named to honor roll at Bishop Fenwick High

Bishop Fenwick High School has announced its first quarter honor roll, recognizing students who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. The honor roll is determined by calculating the unweighted grade point average across all major courses, with students earning distinction at three levels: President's List (3.90 GPA or higher with no grade below A-), Principal's List (3.50 GPA or higher), and Dean's

List (3.00 GPA or higher). Among those earning top honors, students from Wilmington were represented showcasing the dedication and academic excellence. Students receiving any failing grade, a grade below B-, or an incomplete are ineligible for honor roll recognition, making these achievements particularly noteworthy.

Wilmington
Dean's List

Bridget Bloom '29
Principal's List
Aimee Keohane '27
Caroline Gillis '29

About Bishop Fenwick: Bishop Fenwick High School is a Catholic, co-educational, college prep, senior high school empowering all students to seek and achieve excellence in mind, body, and spirit, recognizing their responsibility to serve and to lead.

Malden Catholic posts first quarter Honor Roll

MALDEN — Malden Catholic students have successfully completed the first marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. A total of 744 students from over 40 cities and towns have earned recognition on the honor roll for their outstanding academic achievements.

Malden Catholic honors academic excellence with three distinct categories:

President's List: Grades of 90 and above in all classes

First Honors: Grades of

85 and above in all classes
Second Honors: Grades of 80 and above in all classes

TEWKSBURY
President's List
Hanley Poussard '29

First Honors
Alyson Desaulniers '27
Joao Gerardo Lima '31
Anthony Nalen '27
Jacob Wall '29

Second Honors
Trevi Balandan '27
Sean Casey '29
Hunter Ford '30

Eric Lima '29

WILMINGTON
President's List
Arianna Carriglio '29
Roman DiZoglio '26

First Honors
Kevin Cullity '28
Cooper Foti '28
Harleinedie Jolimer '28
Casey Kelley '26
Cole Tucker '26

Second Honors
Mark Cataldo Jr '28
Shannon Hounsell '27
Alyvia New '27

Check out the Indoor Community Market

Gail Deackoff and Nancy Reed review the new *Images of America: Tewksbury* book for sale by the Tewksbury Historical Society at the Indoor Community Market held at the Senior Center last week. Monthly winter markets will also take place on Thursday, Jan. 8 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Each monthly market features 25-30 vendors selling food and other products. The markets run from 4 - 7 p.m. To obtain a copy of *Images of America: Tewksbury*, contact <https://www.tewksburyhistoricalsociety.org/> (Paige Impink photo)



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Upcoming local events

Donation Drives at Tewksbury Public Library:

- Pick an ornament to decorate and bring a donation for the Tewksbury Community Food Pantry

- Bring a donation for the Toiletries Drive put on by the Tewksbury Democratic Committee to benefit the Glenice Sheehan House for Women

Until January 1, Tewksbury Winter Tree Walk, Chandler Well Fields, Rogers Park, Pinnacle Trails. See decorations to celebrate winter on the town's open space trails. <https://tewksbury-ma.gov/537/Trail-Maps>

January 1, All day bowling, \$20.26 Wamesit Lanes, Wamesitlanes.com

January 8, Tewksbury Indoor Community Market, Senior Center, 4 - 7 p.m. Vendors, food trucks and more! Tewksburymarket.com Additional market date is Feb. 12 — save the dates!

Public Health Museum, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 365 East St. on the campus of Tewksbury Hospital. Publichealthmuseum.org

Book Store Next Door, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults \$3, seniors and youth age 3-12 \$2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harn-den Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62), Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, Saturdays and Sundays, noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

Wilmington's Steve Bjork

New Year's Eve comedy at Mount Pleasant Golf Club

LOWELL — Say goodbye to 2025 with great comedy at Mount Pleasant Golf Club in Lowell. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. show-time.

Wilmington native Steve Bjork returns to the area for a double-headliner bill with Paul Nardizzi (Conan, Comedy Central, SiriusXM). Jack Lombardo hosts.

Tickets are \$35 in advance from ScampsComedy.com/shows, \$40 at the door. (Cash only). There will be light snacks and a cash bar.

The show is presented by Scamps Comedy Productions.

The material is suitable for 21-plus.

"Comedy is a popular entertainment choice for New Year's Eve, and this is a great show," Scamps Comedy boss Dave Rattigan said. "We've done other shows there, and Mount Pleasant sets up really nicely for comedy. The comics are 'nightclub clean' — not too tame, and not too spicy — and hysterically funny."

One of the best observational humorists in Boston, Stephen Bjork is known for his clean and funny style that makes him a favorite in theaters, corporate shows, and fundraisers. At one time, he worked cross-country as a headliner, performing at clubs such as The Improv in Las Vegas, Mohegan Sun in Connecticut, Hilarities in Orlando, Florida, Crackers in Indianapolis, Indiana, and several more.

He's shared the stage with acts including Dane Cook, Steven Wright, Dom Irrerra, Dave Chappelle, Gilbert Gottfried, Joe Rogan, Dana Gould and Tom-

my Chong. He also once opened for the legendary musical group The Platters.

Paul Nardizzi is one of the country's top comedians, with multiple stand-up appearances on NBC's Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central, and Fox Sports' Best Damn Sports Show Period, as well as regional appearances on NESN.

A former winner of the Boston Comedy Festival, Nardizzi is in demand for theater shows, corporate functions, colleges, golf tournaments, and fundraisers. He's the creator and star of the Ranting Parents Comedy Tour, which has played in theaters around New England.

His CD has been played on Sirius Satellite Radio and he's a prolific author of humor books, including the hilarious "Things That Might Annoy..." series, which pokes fun at Yankee fans, Jets fans, Republicans, and Democrats.

He also wrote the hilarious "602 Reasons to be Ticked Off" and "The Sarcastic Sports Trivia Book."

Affable, animated host Jack Lombardo wins audiences over with his friendly, exuberant stage presence and funny observational style. Jack started in the Midwest and has carried it over to the Boston scene. Among the headliners he's shared the stage with are Justin McKinney, Mike McDonald, Dave Rattigan and Steve Donovan.

For more information or show queries, check out Scamps Comedy on Facebook or email Dave@ScampsComedy.com.



(Courtesy photo)

Governor declares Sept. 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey ceremonially signed An Act designating Sept. 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day, under which the Governor will issue an annual proclamation on Sept. 22 in remembrance of military service members and veterans who died by suicide. The bill, which was sponsored by Representative Joan Meschino and Senator Patrick O'Connor and signed by Governor Healey on Nov. 19, aims to raise awareness of mental health resources and support that are available for service members and veterans.

"Massachusetts leads the nation in veteran's services. Throughout our history and to this day, our service members have defended our freedom, strengthened our democracy, and ensured our prosperity," said Gov. Healey. "By officially designating Sept. 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day, we're honoring the sacrifices our military members make every single day, acknowledging the mental health struggles they all too often face, and raising awareness of support that is available to them. I'm grateful to Representative Meschino and Senator O'Connor for their commitment to ensuring Massachusetts continues to honor our veterans and make mental health resources available."

"Our military service members and our veterans sacrifice so much for our country. Their mental health shouldn't be one of those sacrifices," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Our administration is committed to delivering for veterans, and we hope this bill will raise awareness and encourage others to seek help."

"At EOVS, we meet veterans and families at some of their hardest moments. We see the impact suicide has on loved ones, and we see the difference that timely support can make. By establishing this day of remembrance, Massachusetts is shining a light on those realities and reaffirming our commitment to delivering the resources that prevent tra-

gedy and strengthen hope," said Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago.

Gov. Healey has taken several steps since taking office to prioritize the well-being of Massachusetts' veterans. In 2024, Governor Healey signed the HERO Act, Massachusetts' most comprehensive piece of veterans' legislation in the state's history. This legislation included provisions that focused on expanding access to behavioral health treatment, increasing benefits for disabled veterans, codifying medical and dental benefits, and establishing a working group to study the benefits of alternative therapies for treating veterans' mental health disorders.

Under Gov. Healey's leadership, the Executive Office of Veterans Services (EOVS) has spearheaded several initiatives to help address mental health challenges faced by Massachusetts veterans, including:

- In partnership with the Governor's Challenge, EOVS worked with the VA/SAMHSA Suicide Mortality Review Academy to establish a statewide Suicide Mortality Review Committee (SMRC). The committee will review suicide fatalities, identify contributing factors, and recommend interventions to reduce suicide rates in Massachusetts.

- Awarded \$2 million in grant funding to 15 community organizations through the Veterans Community Initiative (VCI) grant program for innovative mental health programs and peer support efforts among veterans.

- Revamping the SAVE (Statewide Advocacy for Veterans Empowerment) program to better address the evolving needs of the veteran community to better focus on preventing suicide and mental health distress and connect veterans with peer support and available benefits.

Revived the Veteran's Reintegration Advisory Committee (VRAC) which investigates, studies, and scrutinizes various aspects of veterans' reintegration into civilian life. Its primary objectives include reducing suicide rates and addressing the profound effects of post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety among veterans. The committee also explores the impact of community peer liaisons on veterans' successful reintegration into society and delves into the critical link between isolation and veteran suicide.

"The Massachusetts Senate will never stop working toward a day when no veteran feels they are without hope or resources. In fact, the Senate is committed to ensuring every veteran in our state receives the behavioral health care they deserve to live healthy and stable lives," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "That's why we passed the strongest veteran services bill in the nation and why we advanced this legislation to raise awareness across the Commonwealth. I commend Senator O'Connor for his leadership on this issue, thank Governor Healey for signing it into law, and thank every servicemember who has served our country."

"Ensuring that state government is doing everything that it can to support the Commonwealth's veterans is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as elected officials, which is why I'm incredibly proud of the work that we have done to establish Massachusetts as a national leader in caring for veterans. That being said, the designation of Sept. 22 as Military Service Members and Veterans Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day is a reminder of the work that we must continue to do to ensure that our veterans are supported during and after their years of service," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I want to thank Governor Healey, as well as my colleagues in the House and our partners in the Senate, for understanding the importance of raising awareness for the services and support that are available to

veterans in Massachusetts."

"We brought forward this legislation in direct response to the tragedies that have left holes in the fabric of our communities and in order to build awareness to prevent future tragedy," said Representative Joan Meschino (D-Hull). "Thank you to Governor Healey for her support of H.3388, an important step in offering support to both our active service members and veterans."

"Signing the Veteran Suicide awareness and Remembrance Day legislation into law upholds our commitment to remembering those we have lost and to confronting the mental health challenges, especially PTSD, that continue to affect our service members and Veterans," said Senator Patrick M. O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "September 22nd, will serve as a reminder that our responsibility to the men and women who sacrifice so much for our country does not end when their service does. There are too many families that have experienced this heartbreaking loss. We will continue to support the Veteran community, spread awareness, and ensure that no Veteran feels alone. These are our heroes, and we need to let them know that we are there for them always. I want to thank Gov. Healey for prioritizing this legislation and signing this into law."

Additionally, Gov. Healey launched a \$20 million campaign to end veteran homelessness, the largest targeted veteran housing investment in Massachusetts history. Partnering with statewide organizations, the campaign placed 800+ veterans into housing and advanced new developments in under 15 months, putting Massachusetts on track to reach functional zero veteran homelessness.

Book Stew Review

'Do Admit! The Mitford Sisters and Me' by Mimi Pond

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This massive undertaking is by the fabulous graphic

novelist Mimi Pond, and the six Mitford sisters — two writers, two Nazi sympathizers, one gorgeous debutante, one chicken-keeper — is probably each worthy of their own book.

Nancy (Love in a Cold Climate) migrates to Paris and Jessica (Decca — The American Way of Death) to the US. All were isolated and only marginally educated due to the refusal of education for girls by their Farve (Baron Redesdale) and the halfhearted efforts of their mother (Murve) in the English countryside in

the early 1900s.

Pamela gets overlooked due to the notoriety of the others; Diana and Unity worship Hitler; and Deborah, the youngest, had a "friendship" with JFK and swam in the White House pool with him, after becoming close chums with his sister Kick before she died at age 28 in a plane crash.

All this and more, with each woman's story illustrated in bravura style, and Mimi Pond's own childhood experiences scattered within. This is the achievement of a lifetime.

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Movie Review:

'Song Sung Blue'

Page B2



Recipe:

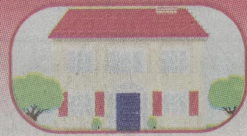
Slow-Cooker
Prime Rib Roast

Page B2



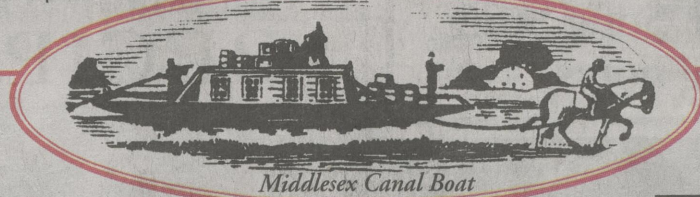
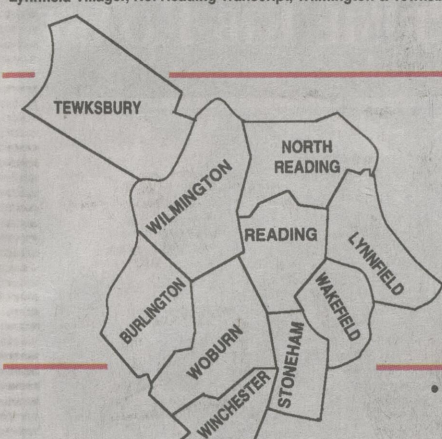
Real Estate Transfers

Page B3



MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times - Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield), Lynnfield Villager, No. Reading Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 B1



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With new growth flatlining and municipal budgets pressured by inflation...

Area leaders begin sounding alarm over rising tax burdens



By PAT BLAIS

The spectacular residential real-estate boom that continues to awe many regional appraisers recently began cooling modestly in the face of higher mortgage rates. But many local officials in the Middlesex East's coverage area are concerned that everyday citizens' ability to afford the tax increases associated with that prolific climb in housing values will break long before the market does.

During annual public hearings in Town and City Halls across the region that started in November, municipal officials began sounding alarm over the drastic spike in residential real-estate taxes as the average single-family home worth climbed to valuations that range between \$685,343 in Tewksbury to the high-water mark of some \$1.65 million in Winchester.

"We have a lot of families, not just seniors, but a lot of families in town struggling," vented Wilmington Select Board Chair Frank West during that community's tax classification hearing in late November, when town officials learned the average homeowner will see their annual tax bill climb by some \$620.

"It's times like this you realize that when you're excited your home value has gone up, [you're not] understanding that with the values increasing, you are going to pay more taxes," later stated Wilmington Select Board member Gary DePalma. "Myself personally, I saw what [my home value is now] and thought, 'Wow, that's nice.' But when we came to this, I thought, 'Wow, isn't this lousy?'"

According to Karen Rassias, Wilmington's Principal Assessor, since the 2008 financial crisis, when the average house in town was valued at \$402,000 and cratered to a \$349,000 low several years later, nearly every type of residential property has been launched into the stratosphere.

For example, even ranch-style houses, which were once the dwelling of choice for downsizing senior citizens and first-time homebuyers, are now coveted high-value assets. In fact, in 2024, when 24 such ranches changed hands, the average sales price in Wilmington for such properties averaged \$671,000. Meanwhile the typical single-family house value, again based upon 2024 sales, is climbing by \$57,000 to \$759,000.

"[Housing values are] not increasing as much as perhaps a couple of years ago, when we saw 14 percent and 10 percent increases, but we're still seeing increases based on calendar year 2024 sales," said Raissas of the phenomenon.

In what he dubbed as a perfect storm, John Connolly, the Chief Appraiser in the City of Woburn, explained that while residential prices are seemingly on a non-stop up-

ward trajectory, commercial and industrial landowners have seen their property values stagnate for several consecutive years now. Meanwhile with COVID-19 bringing about a pretty drastic reduction in demand for office space, reinvestments into other classes of industrial and commercial lots is also being delayed by many due to inflation in the construction industry and high interest rates.

"You can see our new growth is down as illustrated by what's going in the commercial and industrial market. We also saw a loss in our personal property tax valuation from last year," Connolly explained.

"It's like the perfect storm is hitting communities all while costs are going up. So we're not alone in this," the chief appraiser told the local City Council during a tax classification hearing earlier this month. "Things aren't really looking too much brighter around the corner. So I would just urge the council to exercise caution."

Since 2015, the valuation for typical single-family house in Woburn has nearly doubled from \$366,698 to \$738,200. Over the past 12 months alone, house valuations climbed average by \$38,000.

Though Woburn's citizenry has generally been insulated from big-time tax increases due to the city's sizable commercial and industrial property base, the average tax bill is expected to climb by around \$774 next year. Last year, Woburnites - who have historically bragged some of the lowest tax bills in Middlesex County - had to shoulder an average estimated tax increase of \$583.

Connolly and Raissas have in recent years also sounded the alarm about the pace and scale of new developments involving the conversion of industrial/commercial sites into apartment complexes. Specifically, the two neighboring communities, which like Burlington have been able to offset a large portion of residential tax bill by shifting a higher burden onto commercial and industrial landowners, have been home to a number of such conversions in recent years.

"When we tear down an industrial or commercial building or property and replace it with apartment buildings, [those redevelopments] fall into the residential class. Even though they seem like income-producing properties, under Mass. General Law, they're not classified that way," warned Wilmington's principal assessor last month. "So the more we have the building of these residential units, the more that will affect the percentage shift."

In neighboring Tewksbury, where about 14.8 percent of all taxable properties are classified as commercial or industrial, the average residential tax bill will climb by \$287 in 2026 to \$8,609. Single-family home values in the commu-

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nity climbed by roughly 8.8 percent or \$55,845 over the past 12 months to an average \$685,343 assessment.

In many ways fairing worse than surrounding communities due to their largely residential character, small bedroom communities like Stoneham, Reading, and Winchester are not immune to the phenomenon where commercial/industrial properties are being converted into residential.

For example, in Stoneham, two large properties in the community's central business district - the old Rounds Hardware store and the five-story office building by the corner of Main and Montvale Avenue - are being slated for conversion into apartments or mixed-use properties. They join a growing number of once vibrant commercial sites like the old Boston Regional Medical Center (BRMC) across from Spot Pond, the old A.W. Chesterton site by the Winchester line, the old Plymouth Rock trucking terminal off of Maple Street, and the old China Moon site off of Main Street that have already been redeveloped into apartments or area permitted for such a new use.

For the past eight years now, Stoneham's officials have tried to limit rising real-estate tax bills by maxing out the commercial/industrial/personal property (CIP) shift at 175 percent. The CIP, which creates a dual tax rate in communities that adopt a rate of less than one, shifts a greater portion of the tax levy onto businesses.

However, this year, the typical Stoneham homeowner will still see their annual tax bill climb by \$225 in 2026. According to town Assessing Director Cheryl Kozlowski, the typical single-family house in Stoneham is now assessed at \$801,126 and increased in value by \$35,356 over the past

• TAXES TO B2

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Movie Reviews & Box Office News

The Neil Diamond-inspired 'Song Sung Blue' hits all the wrong notes



DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH - Emma Kate Hudson, left, and Hugh Jackman in a scene from "Song Sung Blue." (Sarah Shatz/Focus Features via AP)

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

The story of Mike and Claire Sardina — a struggling husband-and-wife Neil Diamond tribute act from Milwaukee — was never the stuff of Hollywood movies. Unfortunately, it's been made into one.

Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson are slumming to play the slightly batty couple in the big-hearted but misguided "Song Sung Blue," a baffling adaptation of a very moving 2008 documentary.

Director and writer Craig Brewer isn't certain where the through line of the movie really is so he explores working-class pressures, adds a rom-com, swerves into tragedy and drug addiction and then lets Jackman and Hudson sunnily perform some 20-odd songs, turning "Song Sung Blue" into a melodrama-meets-holiday-sing-along.

Hollywood should have stayed away. The original documentary by Greg Kohs — who gets a producer credit this time — was about two artists who, despite facing foreclosure notices and insurance denials, still showed up for gigs, chasing that showbiz high, even when one suffered an amputation. The couple and their blended family came across as somewhat delusional but

sweet and their tragedies seemed almost preordained. It was a small story.

Jackman and Hudson try to lose themselves in these parts. He walks around in sagging tighty-whities, with dirty fingernails and a missing tooth, and she works hard to be drab. The filmmakers ape many of the signatures of the documentary, like the sight of airplanes rumbling over the Sardinas' house. In too many ways, "Song Sung Blue" feels like an act of karaoke.

Like Brewer's previous "Dolemite Is My Name," the new movie surrounds the main actors with a kindly support crew, like the guitar player played nicely by Michael Imperioli and managers portrayed by Fisher Stevens and Jim Belushi. Ella Anderson does excellent work as Claire's angsty daughter, and look for a fun moment when an actor playing Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder takes the stage to share "Forever in Blue Jeans."

The songs are excellently handled. Brewer is, after all, the director of "Hustle & Flow," too. Hudson radiates as she sings, while Jackman absolutely nails Diamond's sound and stance. If you came to hear "Sweet Caroline," you'll leave with a deeper respect for a songwriter who also wrote such gems as "Play Me" and

"Holly Holy."

It's just that the overly long song performances are always smiling, exuberant affairs in what has to be considered a story of tragedy and they don't fit tonally. Of course, music was the Sardinas' happy place — their onstage names were Lightning & Thunder — but the blissful deliveries seem more like cheesy holiday movie fodder than studs in a well-constructed movie.

Some unnecessary Hollywood touches — an overcooked scene with a defibrillator and the ridiculous, non-factual way we lose Mike — stick out poorly. The filmmakers also never really explore the world of musical impersonation during a time when authenticity was becoming the coin of the realm. It doesn't know what to do about heroes who are deeply campy, using wind machines in a biker bar. Overall, it's just not so good, so good.

"Song Sung Blue," a Focus Feature release that hits theaters on Christmas Day, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for thematic material, some strong language, some sexual material and brief drug use. Running time: 133 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE



HOLIDAY PRIME TIME - Prime rib in a slow cooker? You got it! Try this hearty and flavorful bone-in roast that only takes 30 minutes of prep time. The prime rib slow-cooker technique lets you save space in the oven while you whip up our Creamy Horseradish Sauce for dipping. The combination is delicious, beautiful and easily achievable. Add this slow-cooker prime rib recipe to the table the next time you need a showstopping centerpiece.

STEPS

Step 1

In small bowl, mix softened butter, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Step 2

Spray 6-quart slow cooker insert with cooking spray. Pour beef-flavored broth into slow cooker. Rub beef roast all over with vegetable oil. Heat 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Cook 4 minutes on ribs side, then turn and cook 1 to 3 minutes each on other sides, until browned, holding roast upright in skillet with tongs if necessary.

Step 3

Transfer to slow cooker, ribs side down. Rub butter mixture on top and sides of roast. Cover and cook on Low heat setting 3 to 5 hours or until desired temperature in center. For medium-rare, cook 3 hours 30 minutes to 4 hours, or until meat thermometer inserted in center reads 135°F. For medium, cook 4 hours 30 minutes to 5 hours, or until meat thermometer inserted in center reads 145°F. Transfer roast to cutting board. Cover roast loosely with foil; let stand

30 minutes before carving. Cut into slices.

Step 4

Meanwhile, stir together Creamy Horseradish Sauce ingredients. Serve with roast.

EXPERT TIPS

• For an extra pretty presentation, top sliced roast with more fresh chives or thyme leaves.

• You can make the Creamy Horseradish Sauce served alongside this dish up to two days in advance. Store covered in the refrigerator and give it a stir before serving.

• Prime rib may be called standing rib roast, beef rib roast or prime rib roast, but all of these names refer to the same delicious cut of meat. This cut may be bought bone-in or boneless. This recipe calls for using a bone-in recipe, which adds flavor and helps keep the meat moist.

• It can be a little tricky to carve a bone-in prime rib roast, but if you go slowly, use a sharp knife and remember these tips, you'll be fine. First, once the meat is cool enough to

INGREDIENTS

Beef Rib Roast

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 2 tablespoons finely chopped garlic
 - 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh thyme leaves
 - 4 teaspoons salt
 - 2 teaspoons pepper
 - 1 cup Progresso™ beef-flavored broth (from 32-oz carton)
 - 5 to 6 lb bone-in beef rib roast
 - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- #### Creamy Horseradish Sauce
- 1 cup sour cream
 - 2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
 - 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives
 - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper

handle, place on cutting board and carefully carve the bone away from the meat.

• This cut of meat is typically served medium rare, which means the inside will still be quite pink. Don't worry, as long as you follow the temperature instructions included in this recipe, your meat will be food safe. Keeping meat on the rare side brings out its rich, buttery flavor.

• TAXES FROM B1

12 months. Over the past five years, the average single-family house value in Stoneham has risen by some \$200,000.

Notably, earlier this month, Stoneham's citizens passed the community's first-ever Proposition 2 and 1/2 override in the form of a \$9.3 million tax levy increase that will be used to avert an FY'27 financial crisis that threatened mass school layoffs, the shuttering of the town's library and senior center and a litany of other service reductions. As a result, the average homeowner's tax bill will jump by an additional \$1,041 over and above the \$225 increase being driven by the

normal 2.5 percent levy increase.

Given the sharp one-year increase in residential tax bills, Stoneham's Select Board is considering the adoption of a number of local option state laws and a special mean-tested senior tax break program to give some relief to elderly residents, veterans, and others on fixed incomes.

Town officials in neighboring Reading, who have striven carefully not to inflict to high of a tax burden on its small business community, have also predicted an override might be necessary in the coming years to stabilize town finances.

However, unlike in Stone-

ham, which has maxed out the CIP shift at 175 percent for close to a decade, Reading has only recently begun increasing the burden born by its small class of commercial and industrial landowners.

In an attempt to limit the tax increase on the citizenry, Reading's Select Board last month agreed to a modest CIP increase from 1.11 (or 110 percent) to 1.14. Expected to increase the median commercial property tax bill by around \$1,116, the higher than first recommended CIP increase will save the typical Reading resident around \$21.

Nonetheless, the average single-family homeowner in

town will still see their annual real-estate taxes climb by around \$184 in 2026 for a total \$10,356 liability. Based upon the assessor office's calculations, the average single-family home in Reading increased in value by more than \$50,000 over the past 12 months to \$944,193.

In Winchester, which like Reading instituted a split tax rate in order to institute a special senior tax break program, the residential tax bill is expected to climb by \$578 next year to \$18,281. The typical house in the community, which increased in value by around 3.4 percent, now has an assessed value of \$1.65 million.

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Middlesex East Publications, in association with the Salvation Army will sponsor "M.E. Santa" this holiday season to benefit needy individuals and families in the area. In many past years, the Salvation Army has worked quietly within the communities. But this year it is asking for assistance due to increased pressure to provide services. Funds will be distributed locally in the M.E. communities which include: Wilmington, Tewksbury, No. Reading, Lynnfield, Reading, Stoneham, Burlington, Woburn, Wakefield and Winchester.

A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

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10 Lisa St was sold to 10 Lisa LLC by Camirand Ft and Lillian E Camirand for \$760,000 on 12/03/25

48 Seven Springs Ln #H was sold to Limin Mao and James Lu by Nicholas T Miminos for \$785,000 on 12/01/25

137 Winn St was sold to Michael Hu and Lindsey Woo by Gordon K Lau and Yiyuan Pan for \$1,120,000 on 12/01/25

LYNNFIELD

2 Cedarwood Rd was sold to Kyle Desjardins and Cara A Jackson by Beth Dinneen and Joseph M Dinneen for \$750,000 on 12/01/25

37 Grey Ln was sold to Madison Ln T and Michael Yant by Deckview Rt and Lisa K D Orlando for \$2,400,000 on 12/02/25

22 Longbow Cir was sold to Arthur Dinapoli and Rosalie Dinapoli by Troy M Dunapoli for \$800,000 on 12/05/25

807 Salem St was sold to Fabella Narcisse and Vladimir Narcisse by Broadway Lynnfield Prop for \$680,000 on 12/03/25

7 Timberhill Ln was sold to N-Mcc RET and Nancy Kinslieh by Yixin Fang and Libin Zhang for \$1,050,000 on 12/05/25

23 Tophet Rd was sold to Parisa Hassanzadeh and Enrico Piatelli by Anna Levantakis and Robert Sharrio for \$1,652,500 on 12/04/25

15 Ward Ter was sold to Ward Nt and Louie Roberto by Brian E Peavey and Mary A Peavey for \$900,000 on 12/02/25

NORTH READING

25 Marshall St was sold to James E Burnet and Mary H Burnet by Gerard W Moynihan T and John J Siciliano for \$830,000 on 12/03/25

300 Martins Lndg #9308 was sold to Renato Civili and Antoinette T Civili by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$624,995 on 12/05/25

350 Park St #207 was sold to Rechdan Realty LLC by C & J Rt and Laura J Cervizzi for \$160,000 on 12/05/25

7 W Village Dr was sold to Pulkit Gupta and Sanya Agrawal by John A Garofoli for \$1,380,000 on 12/03/25

READING

23 Governors Dr was sold to Kelly R Fitzpatrick by Robert S Gill and Richard P Gill for \$625,000 on 12/05/25

39 Johnson Woods Dr #39 was sold to Falguni A Jani by Johnson Woods Realty Cor for \$281,400 on 12/05/25

452 Lowell St was sold to Beatrice H Chung by Ryan S Kirwan for \$650,000 on 12/03/25

93 Oak St was sold to Lexi Doolittle and Adam Denhard by A H Mottl Est Planning T

and Julie G Santiago for \$1,100,000 on 12/01/25
89 Walnut St was sold to Andrew Thistle and Meagan E Thistle by Hayley A Barrett for \$1,540,000 on 12/05/25

STONEHAM

15 Brookbridge Rd was sold to Whiteacre Prop LLC A Ma by Theodore T Wall T and David Nadeau for \$530,000 on 12/03/25

1 Columbus Ave was sold to Katie Shinkwin and Stephen Colarusso by Stanley J Kiddy for \$1,125,000 on 12/04/25

11 Congress St was sold to Otavio Camargo by Arthur J Mason Jr and Susan E Mason for \$750,000 on 12/03/25

16 Cricklewood Dr was sold to Christian Barro and Anna V Kotrys by Cricklewood 16 Nt and Frank Dicenso for \$1,089,900 on 12/01/25

27 Emerson St #27 was sold to Emily A Dugal and Frederick V Charles by Brian C Lowe and Bethany Lowe for \$670,000 on 12/05/25

32 Garden Rd was sold to Sandy F Evans and Scott A Evans by John Cullen and Gail Cullen for \$1,620,000 on 12/05/25

100 Ledgewood Dr #417 was sold to Shane Maher by Elisa D Pepicelli for \$425,000 on 12/02/25

3 Mauriello Dr was sold to Richard Repucci and Shane Repucci by Mason B Gillespie and Meghan S Gillespie for \$1,035,000 on 12/01/25

31 Walsh Ave was sold to Suzanne Smyth by Suzanne Smyth and Noel Smyth for \$699,000 on 12/02/25

TEWKSBURY

16 Claire St was sold to Jonathan Moreira and Erin Herlihy by Jeanine Despres for \$410,000 on 12/04/25

500 Clark Rd #4 was sold to Forward Rt LLC by Clark 500 Rt and Charles A Anton for \$490,000 on 12/02/25

9 Cobleigh Dr was sold to Vilene D Ocean by Sandra J Rogers and Paul Hoffman for \$860,000 on 12/03/25

11-R Main St was sold to Dvr Management LLC by Granite Crst Cassistant for \$1,300,000 on 12/02/25

20 Meredith Rd was sold to Marissa Blecher and Zachary Blecher by Thomas Deviller and Yvette Monette-Deville for \$735,000 on 12/04/25

139 Prospect Hill Dr was sold to Brian W Kozik and Patricia A Kozik by Patrick J McGillicuddy and Erica McGillicuddy for \$1,150,000 on 12/02/25

110 Royal Crest Cir was sold to Bruno G Faria and Carolina Faria by Carlos J Delgado and Lillian M Delgado for \$725,000 on 12/04/25

251 Whipple Rd was sold to Claudine Felisier and Nyson Felisier by Niharika Karia

and Shiv R Krishna for \$715,000 on 12/02/25

WAKEFIELD

53 Cooper St Ext was sold to Dana Turner and Timothy T Houle by John F Billiel and Eileen M Wynne for \$1,400,000 on 12/04/25

62 Foundry St #413 was sold to John H Dotolo by Wakefield Living LLC for \$520,000 on 12/01/25

18 Franklin St was sold to Manju Poudel and Anoj Aryal by Matthew M Cicciu and Jaime D Lord for \$717,100 on 12/01/25

54 Lassell St was sold to Katerina P Reilly by Eugene B Ehlert for \$575,000 on 12/05/25

10 Line Rd #A was sold to Rahul V Sawant and Smruti A Parab by Joseph M Travers and Courtney E Gauthier for \$650,000 on 12/04/25

974 Main St #30 was sold to George Dooling and Katalin Dooling by Ke Xie for \$549,900 on 12/05/25

142 Montrose Ave was sold to Patrick Scott and Anoj Aryal by Pauline M Derock for \$1,025,000 on 12/05/25

114 Parker Rd was sold to Claudia Zeferino by Siciliano Ft and Philip C Siciliano Jr for \$660,000 on 12/01/25

27 Pearl St #2 was sold to Jared Wright and Colleen Clougherty by Walter V Maloney 3rd for \$1,100,000 on 12/02/25

24 Stark Ave was sold to Dawn Townshend by Daniel Tripolsky and Jillian Tripolsky for \$950,000 on 12/01/25

7 Sumner Ave was sold to John Carano and Brittany Carano by Golini Ft and Dominic J Carano for \$500,000 on 12/05/25

WILMINGTON

62 Adams St was sold to Rami J Abi-Saleh by Christopher J Lapore and Rachel E Lapore for \$1,100,000 on 12/02/25

40 Agostino Dr was sold to Domenic V Ramasci and Yasmina I Resendes by Judy Rivera for \$845,000 on 12/03/25

25 Green Meadow Dr was sold to Jason K Ferraro and Kimberly Ferraro by Michael Cuzzo and Katie Cuzzo for \$1,255,000 on 12/02/25

9 Lockwood Rd was sold to Theresa Williams by Skilling Rt and Randall B Skilling for \$575,000 on 12/02/25

414-418 Main St was sold to 414 Wilmington LLC by 414-418 Main Street Rt and Michael Scurto for \$715,000 on 12/03/25

379 Middlesex Ave was sold to Shivalay LLC by Mjm Elia Rt and Melissa Elia for \$2,000,000 on 12/01/25

381 Middlesex Ave was sold to Shivalay LLC by Mjm Elia Rt and Melissa Elia for \$2,000,000 on 12/01/25

383 Middlesex Ave was sold to Shivalay LLC by Mjm Elia Rt and Melissa Elia for \$2,000,000 on 12/01/25

96 Middlesex Ave was sold to Kaitlynn

Pelio and Donna Pelio by Northeastern Dev Corp for \$1,325,000 on 12/03/25

WINCHESTER

58 Bacon St was sold to Brennan Decker and Emily Decker by Paul E Tesluk and Megan M Hurley for \$2,030,000 on 12/01/25

41 Englewood Rd was sold to Damien Thiery and Irina Thiery by Mary A Porter for \$1,038,500 on 12/01/25

46 Glen Rd was sold to Lia M Bryan and Patrick S Bryan by Michele Lia Wickerham RE and Michele L Wickerham for \$2,250,000 on 12/05/25

73 Grove St was sold to Chaitanya Misal and Siddha N Kasar by Brian G Rosenberg and Elizabeth A Martin for \$1,627,000 on 12/01/25

102 Hillcrest Pkwy was sold to Triple Gate LLC by Ryan Sheila M Est and First Financial TNa for \$1,425,000 on 12/01/25

16 Park Ave #1 was sold to Mark Pratt and Mary Pratt by Michael A Santonelli T and Michael A Santonelli for \$950,000 on 12/05/25

40 Sargent Rd was sold to Paul Shayan by Lawrence J Spang and Carolyn N Spang for \$1,290,000 on 12/05/25

26 Swan Rd was sold to Mark N Sassi and Anita M Sassi by Ellis Ft and Andrew B Ellis for \$2,900,000 on 12/01/25

9 Sylvester Ct was sold to Elizabeth J Sampson by Adamkowski Rose Marie Es and Madelyn M Gorham for \$1,015,000 on 12/01/25

89 Wildwood St was sold to Wildwood Winchester 89 Rl by Salem St Consortium LLC and Winchester Coop Bank for \$1,725,000 on 12/02/25

WOBURN

269 Cambridge Rd #203 was sold to Domenica L Milazzo by Cristina N Donovan and Hunter J Donovan for \$410,000 on 12/04/25

299 Lexington St #47 was sold to Venkata A Bhagavatula and V Bhagavatula by Lia Bryan and Patrick Bryan for \$1,350,000 on 12/01/25

44 Main St was sold to Aditi Jain by Harriet C Lohnes Irt and Harriet C Lohnes for \$530,000 on 12/04/25

45 Merrimac St #30 was sold to Can Yu by Deepak Das and Kavita Ravi for \$470,000 on 12/05/25

462 Place Ln #462 was sold to Harriet C Lohnes Irt and Harriet C Lohnes by Gold June C Est and Evelyn J Derosa for \$575,000 on 12/04/25

6 Stratton Dr #410 was sold to Deborah A Chang RET and Deborah A Chang by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$799,999 on 12/02/25

51 Vernon St was sold to Jason Carpenter and Caitlin M Mulligan by Michael T Naze for \$743,700 on 12/04/25



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2026 NISSAN MURANO SV AWD

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2026 Nissan Murano SV AWD Available APR 1.9% for 60 months apr in lieu of rebate. Lease for \$197/mo for 24 months w/\$2,999 cash or trade down. 10000 miles per year. Lease based on selling price of \$41,633. Lease for \$326/mo \$0 down payment 36 months. CONDITIONAL OFFER Recent college grad/military may be available if qualified. \$500 Stock# W260228 Vin: 5N1AZ3B53TC104636 MSRP: \$43,960 Model code: 250K. Lease requires tax, title, 1st payment, acq. fee, registration and admin fee additional. Must choose from dealer stock. NMAC credit approval required. Based on tier-one credit. 2 or more available at this price. *Photos are for illustration purposes only. Sale ends 1-02-2025. Available only at Kelly NISSAN of WOBURN.

2025 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV 4x4

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2025 Nissan Pathfinder SV 4x4 Available APR 0% for 60 months. APR in lieu of rebate. Lease for \$273/mo for 24 months w/\$2,999 cash or trade down. 10000 miles per year. Lease based on selling price of \$41,098. Lease for \$398/mo \$0 down payment 24 months. CONDITIONAL OFFER Recent college grad/military may be available if qualified. \$500 Stock# W260791 Vin: 5N1DR3B15C22480 MSRP: \$44,225 Model code: 29215. Lease requires tax, title, 1st payment, acq. fee, registration and admin fee additional. Must choose from dealer stock. NMAC credit approval required. Based on tier-one credit. 2 or more available at this price. *Photos are for illustration purposes only. Sale ends 1-02-2025. Available only at Kelly NISSAN of WOBURN.



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Tewksbury Police Log

Person arrested after rear-ending another driver

Monday, December 15

6:44 p.m. - New resident hit another resident at Blaire House. Police sent. Both parties were spoken to. Officer filed a report.

Tuesday, December 16

2:20 a.m. - Police checked on a motor vehicle at Tree House Brewing. They stated it was the manager for the cleaning company.

1:45 p.m. - Caller reported erratic driver swerving on and off the road at East Street and Livingston Street. Police sent. They spoke to caller and driver. Driver was not impaired. All units cleared with a verbal warning.

3:52 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a male operating a Ram truck threatened him and was reaching into his pants at Catamount Road. Caller stated he would wait in a Jeep. Police sent and officer filed a report.

9:12 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious white motor vehicle parked at the cor-

ner at Newton Territory and Newton Avenue. Motor vehicle was not running and the caller was just concerned. Police sent. They stated no motor vehicle matching that description.

Wednesday, December 17

10:09 a.m. - Caller reported the driver of a black Silverado walking around the area looking at her vehicle and her daughter's vehicle and then got back into his vehicle at Merrimack Meadows Lane. Police sent. Officer checked the area, but the vehicle was gone on arrival.

10:54 a.m. - Police went over to check Frasca Field because they received a tip via email about a suspicious man walking around. Officer checked the area, but no one matched the description and no foot prints in the snow to shed area.

5 p.m. - Caller reported a white van blocking her neighbors driveway at Kensington Way. She stated its a male party wearing all black with green sneakers

just hanging out. She stated it looked strange to her and would like an officer to check it out. Police sent. They spoke to the operator of the van and he stated he was making a delivery.

7:04 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a she heard a loud bang inside of her home at Bruce Street and she was upstairs. Noise might be coming from the kitchen. Police sent. They confirmed no signs of forced entry or any footprints around the house.

7:31 p.m. - Operator at Merrimack Center Program reported juvenile with no description, with rod or stick threatening staff. Not violent yet but threatening. Operator stated campus police responded, as well, meet at P lot entrance. Police sent. State Hospital reported juvenile was now cooperating and had no weapons. No response needed.

11:38 p.m. - Caller reported he believed someone broke into his room and stole his belongings at Motel 6. Police sent. They

viewed the camera footage, but nobody entered the room and no crime occurred.

Thursday, December 18

12:16 a.m. - A suspicious vehicle followed a female at Alabama Road. Police sent. They advised and it was cleared. Officer filed a report.

10:05 a.m. - Caller reported an elderly female party showed up in a taxi and was just sitting on his farmer's porch at Delehanty Drive. Police sent. Ambulance transported one person to Saints Hospital. Officer filed a report.

Friday, December 19

9:43 a.m. - Caller reported a motor vehicle driving the wrong way in front of Ames Pond afraid he was going to cause an accident. Police sent. The spoke to the caller and he was not driving the wrong way.

10:02 a.m. - Police sent out with a male party at North Street and Catamount Road. Wilson Rojas, 55, of 1910 Andover St. in Tewksbury, was arrested and charged with a warrant for assault with dangerous weapon.

10:06 a.m. - Caller reported he was driving by and saw a woman in a black

Chevy Tahoe leave baby carriage behind in the wooded area at Speedway Gas Station. Caller didn't see the caller leave the property, no license plate known, and five minutes ago. White-black, brownish hair. Police sent. They checked the area. It was abandoned property and police attempted to call the calling party.

11:22 a.m. - Caller reported camera picked up motion on side of house at Mill Street. They couldn't tell what it was picking up. Police sent. They checked the area, but nothing was found. Wind might have set off the motion of camera.

6:19 p.m. - Caller from a concerned citizen for three juvenile males about high school age at Colonial Drive who knocked on their door and then walked off. When addressing one of the males, he stated they were out of caroling. Caller believed they were up to no good. Police sent. They reported individuals gone on arrival.

9:30 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a vehicle rear ended him and continued to drive at Evolution Jiu Jitsu-Boxing. Police sent. Jillian Healy, 32, of 220 Merrill Lane in Dracut, was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of motor vehicle,

leave scene of property damage, failure to stop for police, marked lanes violation, and following too closely.

Saturday, December 20

12:57 a.m. - A 911 caller reported someone was harassing him over text at John Street. Police sent. They contacted the person who's sending the message who was his friend's girlfriend pulling a prank. Officer filed a report.

2:13 a.m. - A 911 caller reported three or four people walking across the parking lot at Ames Hill Drive. Police sent. They reported nothing suspicious found. Parties gone on arrival.

11:11 p.m. - Caller reported they were evicting a party and the person was refusing to leave at Hilton Garden Inn. Police sent and reported this was a misunderstanding. The involved parties were leaving.

Sunday, December 21

3:45 a.m. - Caller reported unknown male walked through neighbor's backyard across the street into parking lot at Baystate Avenue. Police sent. They spoke to the homeowner, knew the involved party, and everything checked out.



Wilmington Police Log

Two men arrested after alleged assault

Friday, Dec. 12:

7:01 a.m.: A black 2015 GMC Canyon and a black 2023 Ford Explorer police car were involved in a motor vehicle accident near The Real McCoy's on Lowell Street.

2:03 p.m.: Daniel C Howard of 203 Pouliot Place, in Wilmington, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended for OUI. This followed his involvement in a minor motor vehicle accident involving a red 2021 Toyota Rav4 and a white 2017 Mercedes-Benz GLE.

5:54 p.m.: A caller on Brentwood Avenue reported that she believes someone entered her home while she was at work, and stated that the inside of her home was destroyed.

Saturday, Dec. 13:

12:19 p.m.: An employee at the Burger King on Lowell Street reported three men had put a camera and microphone on the drive-thru speaker to harass customers. Employees removed the equipment from the speaker, but the men were getting aggressive in asking for the equipment back. Police restored the peace, and the men were returned their equipment and were issued no trespass orders for the restaurant.

9:19 p.m.: A caller at the April Field Town Park on Main Street reported that her husband's gray 2020 Ford F150 was involved in a hit-and-run, with the mirror and driver's side window being struck by a vehicle, described as a dark-colored pick up truck, going the opposite direction.

9:29 p.m.: A walk-in party from Presidential Drive reported another person was attempting to extort money from him.

Sunday, Dec. 14:

6:44 a.m.: Christopher R Hirtle of 65 Arlene Road, in Lowell, was arrested for operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended for OUI, and failure to stop/yield. This followed a stop of his blue 2017 Chevy Equinox near the Meineke Muffler on Main Street.

1:01 p.m.: An employee at the Burger King on Lowell Street reported that an irate customer came in regarding an order from Friday or Saturday and threatened both him and a minor working there. The employee decided to not press charges, and was advised of the no trespass process.

Monday, Dec. 15:

11:02 a.m.: A gray 2023 Toyota Highlander and a gray 2016 Toyota Corolla were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Mid-

dlesex Avenue. Airbags were deployed.

1:03 p.m.: A walk-in party from Main Street reported that seashells had been left in her backyard for over two months, and that she found a sports bra that didn't belong to her hung on her clothesline.

2:03 p.m.: Police witnessed a motor vehicle accident involving a white and blue 2016 Volkswagen Beetle and a gray 2019 Honda CR-V on Federal Street. Both of the vehicles' occupants declined medical attention.

Tuesday, Dec. 16:

7:16 a.m.: Cristhian Alexander Casco Padilla of 1046 Main St., Apt. #1, in

Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked registration and not having a valid inspection sticker. This followed a stop of his gray 2011 Kia Sorento on Woburn Street.

11:43 a.m.: A gray 2019 Hyundai Tucson and a blue 2017 Ram 1500 were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Woburn Street. No injuries were reported, and while one person complained of neck pain, they declined medical attention.

4:09 p.m.: A white 2011 Toyota Tundra and a white 2020 Hyundai Veloster N were involved in a motor vehicle accident on the Rt. 62 highway. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported.

Wednesday, Dec. 17:

1:03 p.m.: A white 2020 Ford Transit Connect and a purple 2024 Honda Accord were involved in a head on collision on Glen Road. Airbags were deployed.

Allegedly touched a child inappropriately

Wilmington PD looking to charge bus driver

WILMINGTON — Police Chief Brian Pupa reported to the community that the Wilmington Police Department is seeking to charge a Wilmington school bus driver with inappropriately touching a child who was riding the bus.

On Monday, Dec. 8, the Wilmington Police Department was notified of potentially inappropriate social media activity on the part of a bus driver in Wilmington. The department immediately began an investigation, which was still ongoing on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and Thursday, Dec. 11, when additional parents contacted Wilmington Police with additional allegations regarding the bus driver.

The third party vendor which provides transportation services to Wilmington Public Schools, NRT Bus, was notified, and suspended the bus driver from his route.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, one of the parents who contacted Wilmington Police reported that the bus driver allegedly touched their child inappropriately.

A subsequent investigation, which included review of video surveillance footage from the school bus, led investigators to determine that the bus driver allegedly touched a child inappropriately.

The bus driver, a 70-year-old Wilmington man, is being summonsed to Woburn District Court because Wilmington Police are seeking to charge him

dangerous weapon. This followed a caller at Chep Systems on Burlington Avenue reporting that he had been involved in an altercation, and that the other person had attempted to hit him with a vehicle.

4:20 p.m.: Ademir Alves Silva of 6 Westgate Dr., Apt. #103, in Woburn, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. This followed his involvement in a minor motor vehicle accident between his gray 2017 Ford F150, a brown 2016 Mazda CX5, and a gray 2009 Honda Pilot on Burlington Avenue.

6:00 p.m.: Michelle A Dupras-Steyr of 170 County Road, in Tewksbury, was issued a summons for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a marked lanes violation, and speeding at a rate exceeding the posted limit. This followed a caller reporting a white 2016 Jeep Cherokee was on fire near the North Intermediate School on Salem Street.

with Assault and Battery, and Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child Under 14.

The defendant is not being identified at this time since he faces a criminal summons instead of arrest. He will be identified at a later time if a criminal arraignment is scheduled.

These are allegations. All defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Fire marshal issues lithium-ion battery safety reminder

STOW — With the holiday gift-giving season in full swing, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents to use caution when choosing and using devices powered by lithium-ion batteries.

"Many of this year's Christmas and Hanukkah presents will be use lithium-ion batteries," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "These devices pack a lot of power into a small device, so it's important to choose and use them safely."

Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a cer-

tification mark from an independent testing lab such as UL or Intertek /ETL. This means the device meets important safety standards.

Charge devices safely. Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

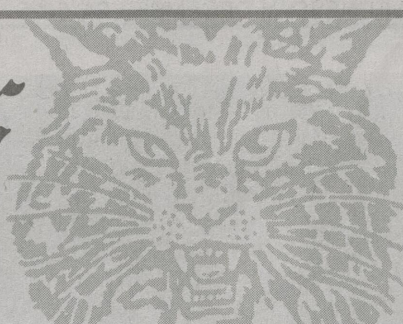
Keep doorways, stairways, and windows clear.

A fire involving a large device such as an e-bike can trap residents if left in an escape route like a doorway, stairwell, or window. Store e-bikes and electric scooters outdoors if possible.

Recycle batteries responsibly. When it's time to dispose of the device or replace the battery, don't throw it in the trash or regular recycling bins. Physical damage in a compact truck or transfer station is a common cause of lithium-ion battery fires. Instead, bring them to a safe battery recycling location. Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

In 2023, the Department of Fire Services launched a data collection tool to help officials track the extent of fires, explosions, and other lithium-ion battery incidents. This investigative checklist is used by the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and local fire investigators are encouraged to use it as well. While previous reporting suggested about 20 lithium-ion battery fires per year, the new tool has identified about 90 so far this year.

Visit the Department of Fire Services' website for more lithium-ion battery safety resources.



Ryan Gray and the Wildcats won big on Friday.
(Doug Hastings photo)



▲ Noah Titterington plays defense for Wilmington.
(Doug Hastings photo)



▲ Will Poyant moves the ball for Wilmington.
(Doug Hastings photo)

WHS boys basketball hammers Watertown, 55-30

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

After opening the season with losses to two of the top teams in the Middlesex League's Liberty Division, the Wilmington High boys basketball team blasted into the win column on Friday in Watertown.

Behind 34 points from senior Ryan Gray and a tremendous defensive effort from the Wildcats, WHS topped the Raiders by a 55-30 score.

It was Wilmington's first Freedom Division game and it certainly started the league campaign on a high note for the 'Cats.

Wilmington led 16-5 after the first quarter and 27-9 at halftime, limiting Watertown to a 3-pointer, a pair of layups and two foul shots, all by Raider junior Michael Nshanian in the first 16 minutes of action.

While Watertown's of-

fense improved in the second half, the Raiders simply couldn't contain Gray and his teammates.

Watertown actually led 5-2 in the opening moments of the game after the 3-pointer by Nshanian, but Wilmington answered with a 16-0 run that continued into the second quarter.

Senior Will Poyant drew a charge on Nshanian to fuel Wilmington's run.

Senior Roman Synnott tied the game with a 3-pointer, Poyant hit a foul shot before Gray converted back-to-back fast break layups to make it 10-5 and forced a Watertown timeout.

Gray and senior Noah Titterington added 3-pointers before the first quarter ended and sophomore Spencer Walker added a layup off a feed from Poyant.

Gray drained a 3-pointer just before halftime to increase the Wilmington lead

to 18 at the break.

After Nshanian scored five points in the first minute, the 'Cats tightened up the defense on the Raider big man. Synnott did most of the dirty work in keeping Nshanian quiet.

Nshanian finished with 17 points, but eight came in the second half with the game out of reach for Watertown.

Wilmington dashed any ideas of a Watertown comeback in the second half with an 8-3 surge to start the third quarter.

Synnott's terrific pass set up Titterington for a layup to start the spurt, Gray added a foul shot and a layup before Poyant (11 points) drilled a 3-pointer off of a nice pass from senior Pat DeLucia to make it 35-14.

The Wildcats led 39-21 after three quarters and bumped the lead to 28 late in the game.

Synnott drew two sec-

ond-half charges on Nshanian.

Gray had 13 of Wilmington's 16 fourth-quarter points with two three-point plays and a 3-pointer along the way.

In the closing moments, Faradie was able to empty his bench and a group consisting of freshman Bart Zaino, freshman Nate Ricciarelli, sophomore Nick Maninos, freshman Andrew Poyant and sophomore Declan Mulcahy finished the game.

The 'Cats opened the season with a 52-36 loss to Arlington and a 79-48 shellacking at the hands of Lexington.

Against Lexington, Wilmington trailed by only 14 early in the second half after 3-pointer by Poyant and Titterington, but the Minutemen used a 15-1 run to bust the game open.

LHS led 63-37 after three quarters and cruised through the final eight minutes.

In the Arlington game, Wilmington trailed only 25-22 at halftime, but the Spy Ponders pulled away in the second half.

Synnott's 12 points paced the Wildcats. Poyant added eight points and Mulcahy scored seven.

Wilmington hosted Melrose on Monday night and then faces Pentucket Regional in a home-and-home series on Dec. 30 and Jan. 2 with a home game on Tuesday, Dec. 30 and a trip to Pentucket on Friday, Jan. 2.

◀ Roman Synnott hits the floor to make a hustle play against Watertown.
(Doug Hastings photo)





▲ Eliana Goldstein moves past Watertown defenders.
(Doug Hastings photo)
► Summer Sands fights for a loose ball.
(Doug Hastings photo)



▲ Alison McElligott and the Wildcats lost to Watertown on Friday.
(Doug Hastings photo)
▼ Samantha Nelson drives to the basket.
(Doug Hastings photo)



Wildcats can't catch RAIDERS

WHS girls basketball falls in Watertown

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

What started out disastrous didn't end all that badly for the Wilmington High girls basketball team. The Wildcats played in Watertown on Friday night and ended up falling to the Raiders by a 45-26 score.

Watertown scored the first 13 points of the night, led 17-4 after the first quarter and pushed the lead to 21 in the second quarter before carrying a 25-6 lead into halftime.

The Raiders increased their lead to 40-15 in the third quarter and led 40-16 heading into the final eight minutes before the Wildcats put together a nice fourth quarter against the Watertown starters.

WHS outscored Watertown 10-5 in that fourth stanza and had a 10-2 run between the end of the third quarter and midway through the fourth to leave the gym with plenty to build on going forward.

The late run saw Wilmington moving the ball and running the floor well.

Senior Alison McElligott ended the third quarter with a foul shot and senior Erin McCarthy added two free throws to start the

fourth.

A steal by McElligott set up a 3-pointer by McCarthy and senior Leah Murphy scored inside off of a pass from McElligott, who literally ripped a rebound out of a Watertown player's hands. Sophomore Samantha Nelson then hit a short jumper assisted by sophomore Sara Keck.

Murphy added one more foul shot before the final horn sounded.

McCarthy led Wilmington in scoring with nine points while Murphy and junior Isabella Goldstein added six points apiece.

Even while Watertown was piling up its early lead, Wilmington was working hard.

Senior Charlotte Forcina grabbed a tough defensive rebound in the early going and made a nice pass inside while senior Summer Sands, sophomore Jillian Weinstein and McCarthy all had decent looks at the basket.

Weinstein and junior Isabella Goldstein both made hustle plays on loose balls and freshman Nyla Chimwanda had an early steal.

Goldstein scored Wilmington's first points of the game with a 3-pointer at 6:07 of the first quarter. Senior Leah Langone

also had quality first-half minutes.

After scoring six points in the first two quarters, Wilmington scored 10 points in the third and fourth.

Murphy, Chimwanda, McCarthy all had points in the third quarter and Goldstein hit a 3-pointer. Forcina had back-to-back steals to fuel the Wildcats as well.

Wilmington opened the season with a 55-42 loss to Arlington and a 56-48 win against Lexington.

In the Arlington game, Goldstein paced Wilmington with 11 points includ-

ing three 3-pointers, Nelson swished three threes and scored nine points and McCarthy finished with eight points.

Arlington led 14-5 after the first quarter and 24-23 at halftime. The game remained tight after three quarters with AHS leading 35-33, but the Spy Ponders outscored Wilmington 20-9 in the final eight minutes.

Against Lexington, McCarthy led the 'Cats with 18 points, Forcina scored 11 and Murphy had nine. In all, nine WHS players scored at least one point in the win.

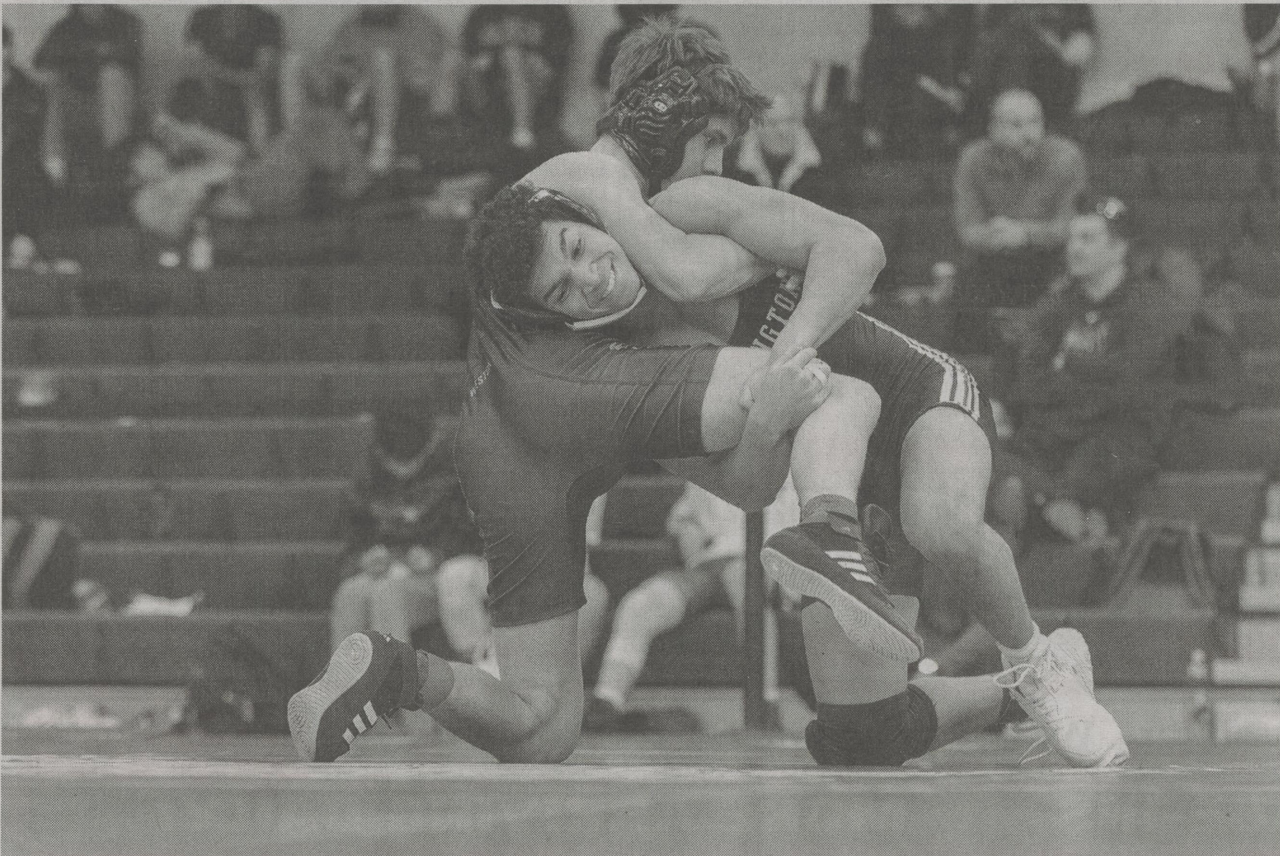
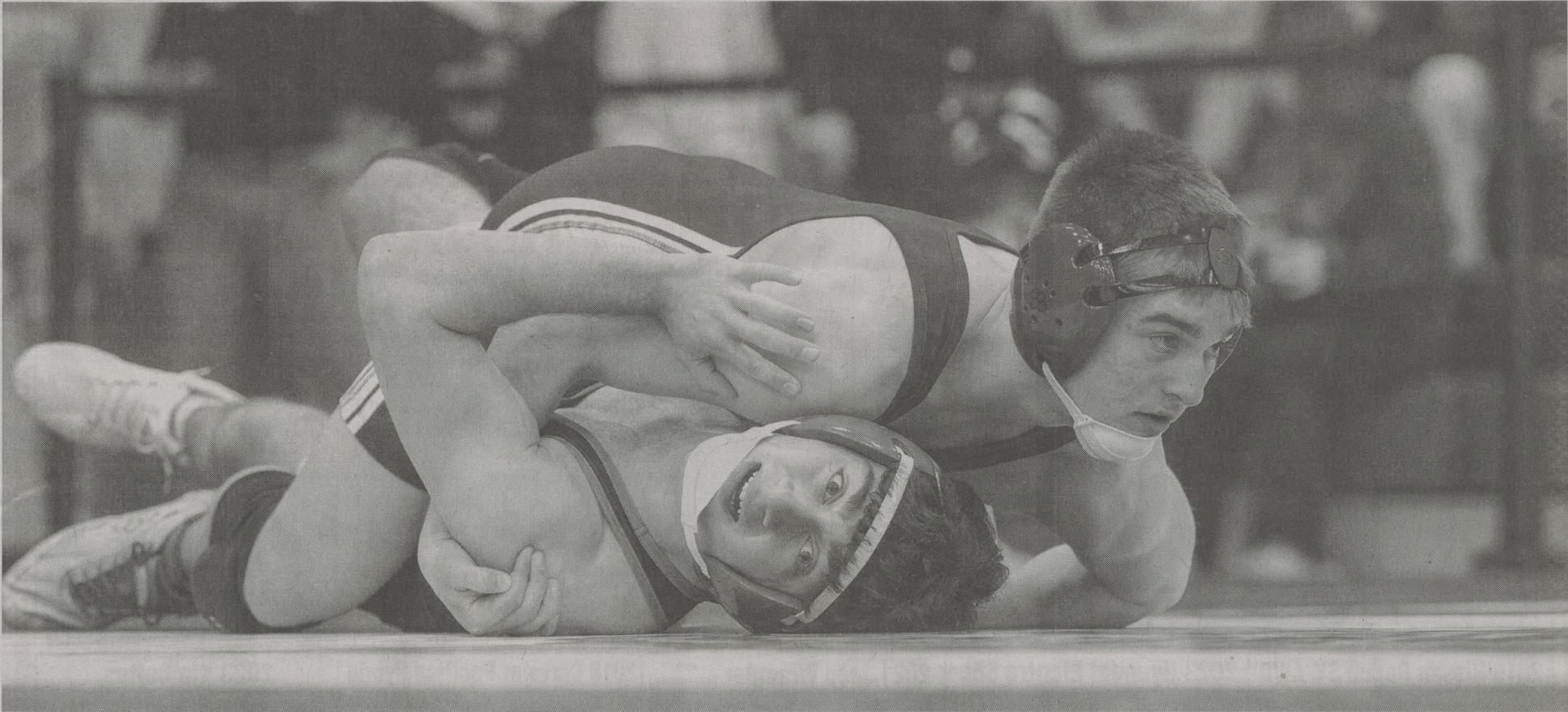


▲ Erin McCarthy looks for an open teammate.
(Doug Hastings photo)



▲ Nyla Chimwanda makes a move for Wilmington.
(Doug Hastings photo)
► Leah Murphy lines up a free throw.
(Doug Hastings photo)





▲ Wilmington's Joshua Lopez, right, takes down Weston's Ian Siwik during the 138-pound match Saturday at the Sons of Italy Wrestling Tournament at Wilmington High School. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

▲ Mason Kwiatkowski of Wilmington presses for the pin against North Andover's Nicolas Ternullo during Saturday's Sons of Italy Wrestling Tournament at Wilmington High School. Kwiatkowski finished second in the 157-pound division. (James Thomas for the Town Crier)

Wilmington High Roundup:

Wrestlers host annual Sons of Italy tournament

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington High wrestling team hosted its annual Sons of Italy tournament last weekend. Before the Sons event, Wilmington competed at the Wakefield tournament. In Wakefield, both Mason Kwiatkowski (157 pounds) and Jonathan Panatta (heavyweight) placed sixth. Samuel Beaudoin (106) and Joshua Lopez (140) picked up some good wins also. Last year, Wilmington finished 3-12 overall in dual meets, but return plenty of experience with captains Kwiatkowski and junior Theo Bryson leading the way. Other top returners include senior heavyweight Jonathan Panatta, junior Adam Saied at 165 and sophomores Domenic Bonanno, Ronan O'Shea, Beaudoin, Rafael Hernandez, Joshua Lopez and Colby O'Brien. Newcomers include sophomore Gabriel Andrade and freshman Jordan Wedge. "We have a great group of second-year wrestlers that we are confident will make an impact on the team's performance," said WHS coach Kevin Riley. "Samuel Beaudoin, Joshua Lopez and Colby O'Brien all picked up some quality wins at the varsity level and we are excited to witness their continued progress. Adam Saied and our junior captain Theo Bryson are now upperclassmen. They are both looking to rebound from a previously shortened season due to injury. We are excited for their return. Our heavyweight, Jonathan Panatta is looking to build upon a great junior year picking up several quality wins including success at the Lowell Holiday Tournament. Our senior captain, Mason Kwiatkowski is fo-

cused on making his final year his best yet. He produced a lot of quality wins for the team last year and they look forward to his leadership for the 2025-2026 season. We welcome David Watson to our coaching staff. Coach Watson brings a vast amount of wrestling experience and family pedigree to the table and we are fortunate to have him. We are also fortunate to have former standout wrestling alums Evan Walsh and Ken Adams back as assistants. Both Coach Walsh and Adams bring college level experience to the table which is invaluable."

GYMNASTS READY
The Wilmington High gymnastics team is ready for a solid season. The Wildcats will be led by seniors Sienna Brickman, Maddie Plurad and Lexie Masters this season. Juniors on the team include Jordan Haering and Isabelle Maiella while sophomores are Emma Calahan, Martina Andreeva

and Lindsay Fontana. Freshmen on the squad consist of Emmy Rada, Kelli Tkachuk, Isaure Pretot, Janice Ryou, Grace Call and Lily O'Connor. Three eighth graders will compete with the Wildcats including Gia Slusher, Teagan Sullivan and Liora Dashevsky. "We hope to have a great season," said WHS coach Kristen Hannon. "We have our returning captains Lexie and Maddy, who are entering their senior season. Along with our other senior Sienna returning, we have our new junior captain Emma returning; as well as our other juniors Jordan, Isabelle and sophomores Martina and Lindsay. We have the potential to use a variety of our talented kids in the all-around or at least to fill in the gaps where needed on other events. We hope to keep up the success and momentum we have had from this past season, while building for the future."

SWIMMERS OPTIMISTIC

The Wilmington High swim team is partnering with North Reading this winter with coach Jim Boyle as the head coach. The squad was 1-5 last season, but is looking forward to improving this year. Senior Ella Dong and junior Cole Falk are the team captains while other returning letter winners for the Wildcats include senior Vijay Cudia, senior Declan Savage, senior Jon Mehr, senior Gabby Latson, junior Cooper O'Shea, junior Kyle Griffin, junior Angelia Vo, sophomore Stella Michaud and freshman Emily Falk. Promising newcomers are freshmen Alita Nguansiri, Ruby Davidson and Molly Bagtaz along with eighth grader Vasili Listapod. "Our goal is to continue growing the team while becoming increasingly competitive within the Cape Ann League," Boyle said. "We have several swimmers with the potential to qualify for Sectionals and States, led by junior Cole



Lexie Masters and Maddie Plurad. (Eternal Perspective Photography)



▲ Swim captains Ella Dong and Cole Falk. (Courtesy photo)

Falk, who aims to build on his top-five finishes in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly at last year's state championships.

GIRLS HOCKEY DROPS OPENER

The Wilmington Girls Hockey is starting in a new

co-op opportunity with Wakefield this season. The team will be led by senior captain, Vivien Savoie, who was the squad's leading goal scorer last season. Also returning are goalie, Emma Allard, forwards Dani Chillemi and Olivia Raposa and on defense, Emma Ebert. Freshmen Kelsie Morrow and Riley Lopes are exciting new additions as well as sophomore Rita Bishop, who is coming off of being out with an injury last year. Woburn beat Wakefield/Wilmington last Saturday evening, at Stoneham Arena, 3-0. Allard had 29 saves on the day. "Yes, she (Allard) was tough to beat, last year (with Stoneham/Wilmington), and we put a lot of shots on her," said Woburn coach Steve Kennedy. "I would have liked to have seen more offensive production, but they (Warrior Cats) were a good team." Wilmington/Wakefield's best chance came from Savoie as she had a last-second breakaway in the middle stanza.



Wilmington's Emme Ebert works to control puck against a Woburn player. (Joe Brown photo)



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OBITUARY

Pasquale 'Pat' D'Antonio Served in the Army National Guard

Pasquale D'Antonio, fondly known as "Pat" to family and friends, age 84, a longtime resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Dec. 21, 2025.

Born in Boston on Feb. 3, 1941, Pat was the beloved son of the late Antonio and Antonetta (Nunno) D'Antonio. He was raised and educated in Somerville, the youngest of five children and the only son.

Pat proudly served his country as a member of the Army National Guard, enlisting in February 1958 and receiving an honorable discharge in February 1964. Shortly thereafter, on May 24, 1964, he married the love of his life, Alma L. Brenneman. Together they made their home in Wilmington over 60 years ago, where they raised their two sons and built a life rooted in family, faith, and community.

Pat was known for his strong work ethic and friendly, endearing personality. He began his career at Associated Automotive Parts in Somerville, where he worked his way up to manager, before later taking a position as an Equipment Operator for the Wilmington Department of Public Works. Pat formed many lasting friendships with coworkers over the years.

A man deeply committed to serving others, Pat was actively involved in the Wilmington community throughout his life. In his earlier years, he served as a Cubmaster for the Cub Scouts, later became an Auxiliary Police Officer with the Wilmington Police Department, and fol-

lowing his retirement, he continued giving back by driving for the Wilmington Senior Center.

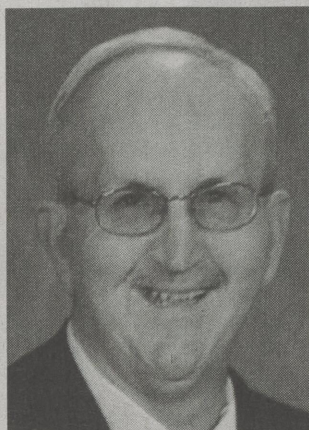
He was a longtime member of the Sons of Italy in Wilmington, where he worked as a bartender for many years. Pat was also active in the Masons and a proud Shriner, generously donating his time and talents to help others whenever needed.

A man of deep faith, Pat was a devoted communicant of St. Thomas Church in Wilmington. He served as a Eucharistic Minister and lector for weekly Masses and volunteered at countless church events, always willing to lend a helping hand.

Family was truly the center of Pat's world. He cherished time attending his sons' sporting events, spending time with them by the pool, and later watching with pride as they grew into the men they became. He especially enjoyed memorable trips and gatherings with friends and family.

Pat will be remembered as a great guy with a heart of gold, a wonderful sense of humor, a contagious laugh, and a genuine kindness that touched everyone he met. He was always the first to help, and was a familiar, beloved presence in his Park Street neighborhood and in the greater community.

Pat is survived by his beloved wife of over 60 years, Alma L. D'Antonio; his devoted sons, Christopher A. D'Antonio and his wife Kristen M. of Middleborough, and Eric T. D'Antonio and his wife Katherine M. Kinsman of



Mansfield, CT; and his loving grandson, Brandon C. D'Antonio.

He was the dear brother of the late Rocchina Di Leo, Mary Barchard, Rose DeLucia, and Dorothy Pacheco. He is also survived by many special nieces, nephews, and their families.

Family and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Route 62), Wilmington, on Monday, Dec. 29, from 4 - 7 p.m.

All are welcome to gather at the Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 30, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, 126 Middlesex Ave., Wilmington. Interment with Military Honors will follow at Wildwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pat's memory may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital and mailed to: Shriners Children's Boston, Office of Philanthropy, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114.

To leave a message of condolence for the family, please visit our website at www.nicholsfuneralhome.com



Marwad siblings set Guinness World Record

By MICHELLE VISCO
Special to the Crier

WOBURN — Three siblings from Woburn, Martin, Justin and Jasmin Marwad, over the span of four years studying at UMass Lowell, have extraordinarily earned five bachelor's degrees, setting a Guinness World record for the most family members to graduate in the same year from the same university in consecutive years.

Over their four years in college, each of them completed a B.S. in computer science, and Jasmin and Martin also earned a dual degree in electrical engineering, which means they finished the full requirements for two separate bachelor's programs and received two distinct diplomas rather than adding a second major under one degree.

During that same time, Jasmin and Martin added minors in mathematics and robotics, while Justin minored in mathematics with a concentration in cybersecurity. They then spent one additional year completing their M.S. degrees in computer science together in 2024, an unusually compressed path that combined dual degrees, double minors, and a master's degree in just five years. This remarkable accomplishment couldn't have been achieved without the support of one another. They had many study sessions together, as well as motivating each other's success.

Their parents immigrated from India with no extended family nearby, few connections, and limited financial resources, but Martin said that through hard work and sacrifice, they built a stable life for their family in Woburn. Their dad, Rishi, is a pastor from India and in 2016 founded the House of Nations Christian Fellowship in Methuen.

Their mother, Shanti, works full-time at Teradyne in an engineering role. The family was always very active in the church as the three siblings lead worship. Martin plays guitar, Justin plays drums and bass, and Jasmin plays keyboard, violin, and saxophone.

Martin noted that "serving together each week deepened our faith and our connection as a family and gave us early experience with leadership, teamwork, and consistent preparation."

In grade school, the siblings were introduced to homeschooling. Their dad stayed home and oversaw their day-to-day learning while their mom worked during the day while helping with school work in the evenings and on weekends.

Martin started at UMass Lowell as an 18-year-old freshman, and his siblings chose slightly different but complementary paths by dual-enrolling at Middlesex Community College. Martin spent his first two years at UMass Lowell while Justin and Jasmin completed high school and earned their associate degrees at Middlesex, then they transferred to UMass Lowell at ages 18

and 16, as Martin was beginning his junior year at age 20. Martin commented, "That timing and their accelerated progress meant that when we first graduated together in 2023, we were 22, 20, and 18 years old, walking across the same stage despite our age differences."

Martin took the initiative to submit a new record application to Guinness after they graduated together the second time with their Master's degrees in May 2024. He filed the application in June 2024, and it was approved as a new official record in October 2024, but it took another year for their evidence submission to be reviewed. They were officially confirmed for the record in October 2025.

Currently, the siblings all have independent careers, but Justin and Jasmin work at the same company, Teradyne. For Justin, he has always loved pushing technology to its limits and realized that the world needs more cybersecurity practitioners to keep modern technology safe and accessible. After a product security internship at Teradyne and time as a devOps engineer, he became the product security lead for Teradyne's Compute Test Division, where he works with a team to secure semiconductor testers used in the supply chain worldwide to test chips that go into everything from phones and laptops to cars and planes.

Jasmin was always interested in robotics as a career and in researching ways they can be utilized to help people. After graduating, she joined Universal Robots as a technical trainer and applications support role, where she led classes to teach students, customers, and end-users with learning how to use the robots and support the applications engineers with customer solutions.

This year, she transferred to Teradyne's Defense and Aerospace division, where she works as an applications engineer. She is also currently working on her PhD in Computer Science at UML in the People Intelligence, Environment, Robotics and Social Outcomes (PIERS) Lab, researching how robotics and virtual learning can be integrated to create accessible and effective educational experiences.

Martin is focused on launching a tech startup. His days are split between writing code, shaping the product and talking with people who might benefit from what he's building. He said he cannot elaborate until it is released, which will be soon!

The siblings all agreed that homeschooling was the best choice for them and allowed them more flexibility, and they were able to learn independently and take initiative. Martin noted that homeschooling didn't mean being isolated at home. They were part of a homeschool co-op, very involved in their church and other extracurricular activities, so they were always around other students and

adults. He stated that people are surprised when they find out that homeschooling is what allowed them to accelerate, like finishing high school early, earning associate's degrees, and then going on to do dual degrees and minors at UMass Lowell.

Martin, Justin and Jasmin all had to work extremely hard to get where they are today. The time they spent at UML was not without its challenges. Martin stated that he and Jasmin were honors students and decided to do the EECS dual degree with minors in robotics and math. He said doing two degrees and two minors was not an ordinary feat.

Martin stated that many find it difficult to finish a degree in four years, and they were trying to do two. They had to file special paperwork in order to secure permission to do this, as it is not often allowed by the school. Martin, who said that the workload was challenging, created the Cloud Computing Club at UML and served as its president and later alumni mentor. He also served as the vice-president of the eMake club, which was a club that managed a makerspace lab space for electrical and computer engineering students to work on their projects.

During his senior capstone project, he was part of a select group to serve on a joint project with the University of Arizona and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, sponsored by Raytheon technologies.

Justin echoed Martin's emphasis on the workload being tiring, but stated that the hard work was worth it. During his time at UML, he became vice president of the cybersecurity club and was heavily involved in their Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) team, where they qualified for regionals and competed against top New England university cybersecurity teams.

Jasmin said that it was a challenge to complete two bachelor's degrees in the span of four years, but is an achievement she is proud of because a lot of hard work and determination was put in. She was also one of the youngest graduates in their history, being still a teenager while earning her bachelor's degree at 18 and a master's at 19!

Jasmin and Justin served as Student Ambassadors for the Kennedy College of Sciences and Student Alumni Ambassadors for the UML community.

"It was an honor to be one of the first friendly faces students saw as soon as they got on campus," Jasmin said, "and to make them and their families feel welcome and to share my experiences about what it's like being a student at UML."

Martin shared of the Guinness World Record recognition that it "is less about the record itself and more about what it represents: the opportunities UMass Lowell gave three homeschooled kids from Woburn and the faith and perseverance our parents modeled that made such an extraordinary academic journey possible."

Woburn School Committee to explore expansion of therapy dog program

By PATRICK BLAIS
Special to the Crier

WOBURN — At the urging of local parents, the School Committee last week unanimously agreed to explore the concept of expanding the Goodyear School's therapy dog program into a districtwide offering.

At the tail-end of their latest meeting in the Joyce Middle School, the elected officials voted unanimously in favor of discussing the steps involved in expanding the therapy dog initiative to every neighborhood school.

School Committee member Jessie Wetzel, who specifically asked that the matter be placed on the agenda for a future meeting, told her colleagues that she has personally witnessed the benefits of the therapy dog program. Wetzel related some of her experiences after Majority Lane resident Alexandra Tisdell, who is a member of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, insisted that the regular therapy dog visits to the Goodyear were netting amazing results.

"I can tell you it's worked wonders inside of that building for my kids especially as well as others," Wetzel told her peers. "My kiddo, my oldest, has a love-hate relationship with school [and one Friday], she really didn't want to go in [to the Goodyear]. I saw Lily [the therapy

dog and my daughter] ran, and I mean she took off [into that building]."

"So I'd like to make a motion that we explore more what a therapy dog program would look like at the elementary, middle and high school," she later said before her colleagues unanimously and wholeheartedly backed the idea.

Considered a type of working dog, much like a police K-9 unit or a service dog that guides persons with disabilities, a therapy dog is a specially trained animal that provides comfort and emotional support in sensitive settings like hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

At least one neighboring community, the Town of Reading, launched its own community-based therapy dog initiative, in which two "comfort" animals assigned to police department handlers regularly visit local schools.

Reading's two school resource officers agreed to partake in the program after local school officials noticed an uptick in mental health issues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the first of the two animals arrived in Reading back in 2022. By all accounts, the program has proven an unbelievable success, and local police commonly bring both animals to the local senior center and large community events.

According to Tisdell, who made clear that SEPAC is interested in

seeing the therapy dogs brought to all schools, she believes the Goodyear School has identified a low-cost but highly effective way to help sensitive student populations.

"A friend told about a morning when his second grader absolutely refused to get out of the car. [It was a] full meltdown, the kind of moment where you're just hoping a miracle will happen... The miracle that turned out that day was Lily, the therapy dog. The instant his child saw her at the entrance, their entire body relaxed and they happily ran into the school," said Tisdell.

"In another instance, a student experiencing significant emotional dysregulation was brought out of the classroom and given a few minutes to sit with Lily. That simple, low-intensity intervention was enough to help them return to class and finish their day," the SEPAC member continued. "There are countless stories like these, not only from the Goodyear, but from districts across the country."

Tisdell addressed the Goodyear School initiative, in which a therapy dog is brought to the East Woburn facility every Friday, during the "public comment" portion of the agenda that is featured at the start of each regular School Committee meeting.

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LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:45 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Waldirene Botelho, Central Home Investment, LLC, 41 Morse Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant and owner. This filing is for the construction of an addition to a single-family dwelling and associated site work. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 41 Morse Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 48, Parcel 18. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair
Conservation Commission
251331 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **January 6, 2026 at 7:10 p.m.** in Room 9 at Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA for a Site Plan Review #25-04 and Stormwater Management Permit #25-06, plan entitled, "Proposed Site Plan, 278 Lowell Street, (Tax Map 72 Lot 1B), Wilmington, Massachusetts"; dated December 9, 2025, prepared by Richard A Salvo, P.E., Engineering Alliance, Inc., 194 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906, and George C. Collins, P.L.S., Boston Survey, Inc., Unit C-4 Shipway Place, Charlestown, MA 02119. The application is for the construction of a 2,500sf car wash. Said property is located at 278 Lowell Street and shown on Assessor's Map 72 Parcel 1B.

A copy of the plan is on file at the Planning & Conservation Department and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Any person interested, or wishing to be heard on the proposed plan, should appear at the time and place designated.

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board
251303 12/18,24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI25P6520EA

Estate of:
Richard M. Atkinson
Date of Death:
May 16, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joanne M. Atkinson of Wilmington** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Joanne M. Atkinson of Wilmington has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

251324 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
SELECT BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing has been scheduled before the Select Board in Room 9 of the Town Hall on **Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:15 p.m.** on the application of Wilmington Fourth of July Celebration, Inc. dba Fun on the Fourth to conduct a carnival at 142 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington, (Map 66, Parcel 1).

Frank J. West, Sr., Chair
Select Board
251299 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
SELECT BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in Room 9 at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, January 12, 2026** by the Select Board on the application of Code 1 BBQ, LLC for a license to serve all alcohol beverages in a restaurant having a seating capacity of not less than 100 persons situated on the first floor of a building located at 228 Main Street.

Frank J. West, Sr., Chair
Select Board
251301 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:55 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Jennifer Stewart, 24 Allen Park Drive, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant and owner. This filing is for grading and tree removal and replacement in the rear yard of an existing single-family dwelling. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Bordering Land Subject Flooding and Riverfront Area as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 24 Allen Park Drive, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 49, Parcel 14-114. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair
Conservation Commission
251332 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

FAMILY SUITE
SPECIAL PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **January 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by Paul J. O'Keefe on behalf of Michael and Dineen Doucette for a Family Suite Special Permit pursuant to Section 7.1 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw to construct an addition to the single family dwelling for a family suite as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 54 Charles Drive, Assessor's Map 7, Lot 7, zoned Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman
251292 12/24,31/25

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website. To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

www.homenewshere.com or
masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Claudio Araujo, 92 High Street, DH 10, Medford, MA 02155, applicant and David Ban, 701 Pouliot Place, owner. This filing is to replace an existing rear deck with a new structure of the same dimensions, 12' x 12'. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 701 Pouliot Place, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's map 106, parcel 8. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair
Conservation Commission
251329 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:35 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Wilmington Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant and owner. This filing is for the replacement of the Martins Brook culvert under Salem Street, drainage and stormwater improvements, and the formalization of walking paths and parking area. Work is proposed within Inland Bank, Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Riverfront Area, and the 100-Foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at Salem Street and Martins Brook, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 101, Parcel 3, Map 101, Parcel 5, Map 102, Parcel 1A, Map 102, Parcel 3, Map 102, Parcel 4. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair
Conservation Commission
251330 12/24/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

FAMILY SUITE
SPECIAL PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **January 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by Joseph Hubbard on behalf of Jess and Colleen Mader for a Family Suite Special Permit pursuant to Section 7.1 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw to construct an addition to the single family dwelling for a family suite as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 100 Jennies Way, Assessor's Map 115, Lot 17, zoned Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman
251300 12/24, 31/25

Everyone loves a
Pancake in the morning

Officer Pancake stopped by Tewksbury Memorial High School to say hello and wish students a happy holiday season. It was a great chance to connect with kids, share some smiles, and spread a little extra cheer around the school. (Courtesy photo)



District finalizing required reporting to MSBA

TECH FROM PAGE 1

field house project, which remains on track for completion in time for graduation in 2026. The district is also finalizing required reporting to the Massachusetts School Building Authority as part of the feasibility study process.

The committee approved a feasibility study cost-sharing formula based on student enrollment, setting an estimated per-student share of \$1,159. Officials emphasized this applies only to the planning phase of a possible new school building project, and provides clarity for towns

considering spring warrant articles. This money would be above the annual assessment each community pays to send students to the Tech.

Members also revisited plans for an internal audit, agreeing that the audit subcommittee should meet directly with the proposed firm to clarify

scope and expectations before moving forward. The goal is a publicly available report focused on internal processes and best practices.

Additional discussion included state-requested revisions to admissions and retention policies, which were approved, as well as preliminary con-

versations about the district's human resources structure, with members agreeing more information is needed before taking action.

The meeting concluded with approval of a short-term contract extension for interim business office services to ensure continuity while longer-

term plans are evaluated. TMSolution, Inc. has served as the district's active interim business manager since July 2025, and its services will be extended through the end of February 2026.

The next meeting of the Shawsheen Tech School Committee is scheduled for Jan. 27, 2026, 7 p.m.

Residents urged to give blood this holiday season

BOSTON — The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now to keep the blood supply as strong as possible in the final days of the year and into 2026. Types O, A negative and B negative blood donors are especially needed now.

Record-setting travel is happening across the country. With more people headed away from home, blood and platelet donations can dip at a crucial time when patients count on care. Bad weather or shifting travel schedules could force donors to cancel or reschedule donation appointments and tighten the blood supply. Make time to give before you go — it's a simple way to make a lifesaving impact.

Give hope during the holidays and schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-

733-2767). Those who come to give Dec. 19, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/Gifts for details.

As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-25, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LX in the San Francisco Bay Area. See RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for details.

If you're unable to give blood or platelets, consider making a financial donation to support our lifesaving mission at redcross.org.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Dec. 22, 2025-Jan. 4, 2026:

MIDDLESEX

Arlington

12/30/2025: 2 - 7 p.m., Arlington Knights of Columbus, 15 Winslow Street

Medford

12/26/2025: 12 - 5 p.m., AC Hotel by Marriott Boston North, 95 Station Landing

Melrose

12/26/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., VFW Post 2394, 14 Chipman Avenue
12/26/2025: 12 - 5 p.m., Melrose Family YMCA, 497 Main St
12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., VFW, 428 Main Street

Tewksbury

12/30/2025: 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Masonic Hall, 70 Victor Drive
1/3/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Masonic Hall, 70 Victor Drive

Wakefield

12/26/2025: 12 - 5 p.m., First Parish Congregational Church, One Church Street
12/29/2025: 1:30 - 7 p.m., Crystal Community Club, 77 Preston Street
1/2/2026: 12 - 5 p.m., Wakefield Masonic Building, 370 Salem Street

Wilmington

12/24/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 112 Middlesex ave.
12/31/2025: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Congregational Church, 220 Middlesex Avenue

Winchester

12/31/2025: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Winchester Hospital, 41 Highland Ave

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in

generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify your impact — volunteer!

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals.

For more information and to apply for either position visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojAmerica.org, or follow us on social media.

Tricia Stevens earns scholarship through Moral Forum competition

TUSCALOOSA, AL — The 19th annual James P. Hayes, Jr. Moral Forum Tournament culminated on Dec. 4 with the championship round. The tournament judges named University of Alabama Honors students Abby Barton, a senior public health major from Gibsonia, PA, and Heidi Sack, a senior communication studies major from Broomfield, CO, champions of the debate and awarded each student a \$1,500 scholarship.

The Debate Resolution stated, "In order to be a more moral society, the U.S. government should prioritize the development and training of artificial intelligence." Barton and Sack argued the pro position in the final debate on Dec. 4.

"This year's topic of the ethics of artificial intelligence proved particularly timely. Students are engaging with AI and know that it will continue to be a significant factor in their careers and lives. Thus, students from across disciplinary backgrounds were keen to talk about this new technological tool and its social impact," stated Megan Bailey, assistant

professor and director of experiential education in the Honors College at UA.

"It also proved a significant and rewarding challenge for me to learn as much as I can about AI in order to guide my students through their ethical deliberations."

Five other categories of scholarships were given to the Moral Forum participants. Griffen Bon, a junior computer science major from Canton, GA, earned the Tariff Hague Outstanding Written Case award. Noah Taeckens, a junior economics, finance and legal studies major from Ann Arbor, MI, received the Best Individual Debater award. Vander England, a junior computer science and electrical engineering major from Wheaton, IL, received the James P. Hayes, Jr. Spirit of Moral Forum scholarship. Each of them received \$500 scholarship.

The debate's semifinalists were Samuel Overstreet, a junior biology major from Olive Branch, MS, Jackson Whitlow, a senior international studies and political science major from Baton Rouge, LA, Austin Bogdanovich, a junior psychology and criminal justice major from Buena Park, CA, and Sidney Issac, a junior finance and economics major from Fishers, Ind. Each semifinalist earned a \$1,000 scholarship.

Lastly, finalists Gina Kaiser, a sophomore cybersecurity major from Burke, VA, and Tricia Stevens, a sophomore electrical engineering and computer engineering major from Wilmington, were both awarded \$1,500 scholarships.

"Moral Forum teaches students that difficult ethical questions do not have a clear-cut answer. Students must use all of the faculties available to them to discern

why they believe what they believe, how to engage difficult questions in a logically consistent way, and where they might find value, collaboration and empathy with others who think differently than they do," Bailey said.

"The Moral Forum exemplifies our mission to prepare students for lives of thoughtful leadership. It challenges them to confront complex ethical questions with courage, clarity and respect," Honors College Dean Tiffany Sippial said.

About the Moral Forum

Striving to foster both open-mindedness and conviction, Moral Forum seeks to help Honors College students distinguish between reasoned judgments about the moral legitimacy of views on the one hand and being intolerant or disrespectful toward individuals or cultural groups on the other.

Students research and engage in seminar discussions concerning a single

moral problem to gain proficiency in the complexity of ethical dilemmas and the values by which morality might be ascertained. Students then engage in a competitive team debate tournament in order to grapple with moral theories while practicing ethical and empathetic citizenship.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus.

A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

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Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!

"We've had so much fun celebrating Jane Austen's 250th birthday at the library this month!" the library noted. From Jane Austen Trivia & Tea to creating silhouette portraits, there's been something for everyone to enjoy. There's still time to join the fun with Jane Austen Bingo for adults and teens—stop by the library before Dec. 31 to pick up a card and enter to win a Jane Austen-themed gift basket!





WINTER SALES EVENT

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24 MONTHS

MSRP \$23,390

BUY FOR
\$20,480



2025 Nissan Sentra S Available APR 4.9% for 60 months. Lease for \$128/mo. for 24 months w/\$2,999 cash or trade down. 10000 miles per year. lease based on selling price of \$22,290. Lease for \$244/mo. \$0 down payment 36 months. CONDITIONAL OFFER Recent college grad/military may be available if qualified. \$500 Stock# W250852. Vin: 5N1BA8BB/RSV00763. MSRP: \$23,390. Model code: 23016. Lease requires tax, title, 1st payment, acq. fee, registration and admin fee additional. Must choose from dealer stock. NMAC credit approval required. Based on tier-one credit. 2 or more available at this price. *Photos are for illustration purposes only. Sale ends 1-02-2025. Available only at Kelly NISSAN of WOBURN.

2026 NISSAN KICKS SV AWD

4.9% APR UP TO 60 MONTHS

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\$178

\$2,999
CASH OR
TRADE DOWN
24 MONTHS

MSRP \$28,440

BUY FOR
\$25,940



2026 Nissan Kicks SV AWD Available APR 4.9% for 60 months. apr in lieu of rebate. Lease for \$178/mo. for 24 months w/\$2,999 cash or trade down. 10000 miles per year. Lease based on selling price of \$27,431. Lease for \$297/mo. \$0 down payment 36 months w/\$0 due at signing. CONDITIONAL OFFER Recent college grad/military may be available if qualified. \$500 Stock# W250791. Vin: 5N1DR3BC/1G0254880. MSRP: \$44,225. Model code: 25215. Lease requires tax, title, 1st payment, acq. fee, registration and admin fee additional. Must choose from dealer stock. NMAC credit approval required. Based on tier-one credit. 2 or more available at this price. *Photos are for illustration purposes only. Sale ends 1-02-2025. Available only at Kelly NISSAN of WOBURN.

2026 NISSAN MURANO SV AWD

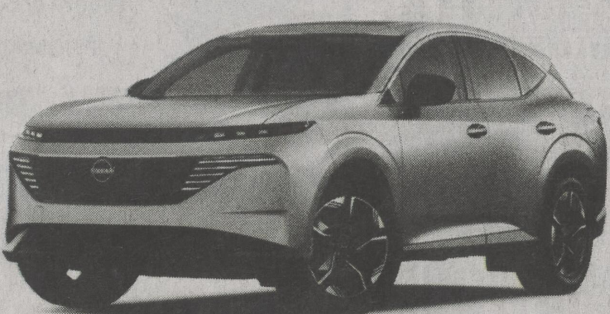
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MSRP \$43,960

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2025 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV 4x4

0% APR UP TO 60 MONTHS

LEASE FOR
\$273

\$2,999
CASH OR
TRADE DOWN
24 MONTHS

MSRP \$44,225

BUY FOR
\$35,725



2025 Nissan Pathfinder SV 4x4 Available APR 0% for 60 months. APR in lieu of rebate. Lease for \$273/mo. for 24 months w/\$2,999 cash or trade down. 10000 miles per year. lease based on selling price of \$41,098. Lease for \$399/mo. \$0 down payment 24 months. CONDITIONAL OFFER Recent college grad/military may be available if qualified. \$500 Stock# W250791. Vin: 5N1DR3BC/1G0254880. MSRP: \$44,225. Model code: 25215. Lease requires tax, title, 1st payment, acq. fee, registration and admin fee additional. Must choose from dealer stock. NMAC credit approval required. Based on tier-one credit. 2 or more available at this price. *Photos are for illustration purposes only. Sale ends 1-02-2025. Available only at Kelly NISSAN of WOBURN.